

THE
WORLD.

BY

ADAM FITZ-ADAM.

VOLUME THE SIXTH.

—*Facta est immensi copia Mundi.*

OVID.



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THE

W O R L D

OF

ADAM

AND

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OF





T O

Mr. *M O O R E*.

Dear S I R,

IN the list of those whom I am proud to call my assistants in this work, and to the principal of whom, as far as they are come to my knowledge, I have dedicated the former volumes of it, to have omitted you, my best and sincerest friend, would have been strange and unpardonable. It would have been strange, as you are sensible how high a regard I have always paid to whatever came from your hand; and unpardonable, as I am convinced you never sat down to write me a paper, but from motives of
pure

DEDICATION.

pure love and affection. It is true, and I scorn to flatter even in a dedication, I have not always regarded your papers with that degree of admiration, which some other of my correspondents commanded from me; yet so partial have I been to your talents and abilities, that you must own I have never through the whole course of the work refused any one of your lucubrations: insomuch that I greatly fear my readers may now and then have reason to reproach me with having suffered my friendship to blind my judgment.

BUT let Malice and Envy say their pleasure, I shall always acknowledge with gratitude the favour of your assistance in the long contention I have had with the vices and follies of the world; and that

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that it was frequently owing to your ironical smile, that I have been enabled to raise the laugh of rail- lery in favour of virtue and good manners. I confess indeed, and you will not be angry that to your- self I avow it, the immortality I have reason to hope for, arises from the conjunction of many higher names than yours, which I have had the honour to associate with me in this favour'd undertaking. And here I feel my vanity strug- gling to get loose, and indulge it- self in the pleasing theme. The name of FITZ-ADAM shall be car- ried down to latest posterity with those of his age, the most admir'd for their genius, their learning, their wit and humour. But I check myself—I dare not engage in the

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task of saying what ought to be said on this occasion, and therefore beg leave to hide my inability in silence.

You will pardon, Sir, this short digression, tho' not made in your favour; and be assured, notwithstanding all I have said, and whatever I may think of you as a writer, as a man I bear you a true affection, take a very interested part in all your concerns, and should you ever meet with that reward from the public, which I think your merits have long deserved, I hope you are satisfied that no one will more truly rejoice in your good fortune than

Dear SIR,

*Your most affectionate Friend,
and Humble Servant,*

ADAM FITZ-ADAM.

T H E
W O R L D.

NUMB. 174. THURSDAY, *April 29, 1756.*

THE following letter has so genuine and natural an air, that I cannot doubt of its coming from a correspondent, who has experienced every circumstance he has described; I shall therefore lay it before my readers without the alteration of a single word.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

AMONG the variety of subjects with which you have entertained and instructed the public, I do not remember that you have any where touched upon the folly and madness of ambition; which for the benefit of all those who are dissatisfied with their present situations, I

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beg leave to illustrate by giving the history of my own life.

I AM the son of a younger brother of a good family, who at his decease left me a little fortune of a hundred pounds a year. I was put early to Eton school, where I learnt Latin and Greek, from whence I went to the university, where I learnt — not totally to forget them. I came to my fortune while I was at college; and having no inclination to follow any profession, I removed myself to town, and lived for sometime as most young gentlemen do, by spending four times my income. But it was my happiness, before it was too late, to fall in love, and to marry a very amiable young creature, whose fortune was just sufficient to repair the breach made in my own. With this agreeable companion I retreated to the country, and endeavoured as well as I was able to square my wishes to my circumstances. In this endeavour I succeeded so well, that except a few private hankerings after a little more than I possessed, and now and then a sigh when a coach and six happened to drive by me in my walks, I was a very happy man.

I CAN truly assure you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that
though

though our family œconomy was not much to be boasted of, and in consequence of it, we were frequently driven to great streights and difficulties, I experienced more real satisfaction in this humble situation, than I have ever done since in more enviable circumstances. We were sometimes indeed a little in debt, but when money came in, the pleasure of discharging what we owed was more than an equivalent for the pain it put us to : and though the narrowness of our circumstances subjected us to many cares and anxieties, it served to keep the body in action as well as the mind : for as our garden was somewhat large, and required more hands to keep it in order than we could afford to hire, we laboured daily in it ourselves, and drew health from our necessities.

I HAD a little boy, who was the delight of my heart, and who probably might have been spoilt by nursing, if the attention of his parents had not been otherwise employed. His mother was naturally of a sickly constitution, but the affairs of her family, as they engrossed all her thoughts, gave her no time for complaint. The ordinary troubles of life, which to those who have nothing else to think of, are almost

insupportable, were less terrible to us, than to persons in easier circumstances : for it is a certain truth, however your readers may please to receive it, that where the mind is divided between many cares, the anxiety is lighter than where there is only one to contend with. Or even in the happiest situation, in the midst of ease, health and affluence, the mind is generally ingenious at tormenting itself, losing the immediate enjoyment of those invaluable blessings, by the painful suggestion that they are too great for continuance.

THESE are the reflections that I have made since : for I do not attempt to deny that I sighed frequently for an addition to my fortune. The death of a distant relation, which happened five years after our marriage, gave me this addition, and made me for a time the happiest man living. My income was now increased to six hundred a year ; and I hoped, with a little œconomy, to be able to make a figure with it. But the ill health of my wife, which in less easy circumstances had not touched me so nearly, was now constantly in my thoughts, and soured all my enjoyment. The consciousness too of having such an estate to leave to
my

my boy, made me so anxious to preserve him, that instead of suffering him to run at pleasure where he pleased, and to grow hardy by exercise, I almost destroyed him by confinement. We now did nothing in our garden, because we were in circumstances to have it kept by others: but as air and exercise were necessary for our healths, we resolved to abridge ourselves in some unnecessary articles, and to set up an equipage. This in time brought with it a train of expences, which we had neither prudence to foresee, nor courage to prevent. For as it enabled us to extend the circuit of our visits, it greatly encreased our acquaintance, and subjected us to the necessity of making continual entertainments at home, in return for all those which we were invited to abroad. The charges that attended this new manner of living were much too great for the income we possessed; insomuch that we found ourselves in a very short time more necessitous than ever. Pride would not suffer us to lay down our equipage; and to live in a manner unsuitable to it, was what we could not bear to think of. To pay the debts I had contracted, I was soon forced to mortgage, and

at last to sell, the best part of my estate; and as it was utterly impossible to keep up the parade any longer, we thought it adviseable to remove of a sudden, to sell our coach in town, and to look out for a new situation, at a great distance from our acquaintance.

BUT unfortunately for my peace, I carried the habit of expence along with me, and was very near being reduced to absolute want, when by the unexpected death of an uncle and his two sons, who died within a few weeks of each other, I succeeded to an estate of seven thousand pounds a year.

AND now, Mr. Fitz-Adam, both you and your readers will undoubtedly call me a very happy man: and so indeed I was. I set about the regulation of my family with the most pleasing satisfaction. The splendor of my equipages, the magnificence of my plate, the crowd of servants that attended me, the elegance of my house and furniture, the grandeur of my park and gardens, the luxury of my table, and the court that was every where paid me, gave me inexpressible delight, so long as they were novelties: but no sooner were they become habitual to me, than I lost all manner

manner of relish for them; and I discovered in a very little time, that by having nothing to wish for, I had nothing to enjoy. My appetite grew palled by satiety, a perpetual crowd of visitors robbed me of all domestic enjoyment, my servants plagued me, and my steward cheated me.

BUT the curse of greatness did not end here. Daily experience convinced me that I was compelled to live more for others than myself. My uncle had been a great party man, and a zealous opposer of all ministerial measures; and as his estate was the largest of any gentleman's in the county, he supported an interest in it beyond any of his competitors. My father had been greatly obliged by the court party, which determined me in gratitude to declare myself on that side: but the difficulties I had to encounter were too many and too great for me; insomuch that I have been baffled and defeated in almost every thing I have undertaken. To desert the cause I have embarked in would disgrace me; and to go greater lengths in it will almost undo me. I am engaged in a perpetual state of warfare with the principal gentry of the county, and am cursed

by my tenants and dependants for compelling them at every election to vote (as they are pleased to tell me) contrary to their conscience.

My wife and I had once pleased ourselves with the thought of being useful to the neighbourhood, by dealing out our charity to the poor and industrious; but the perpetual hurry in which we live, renders us incapable of looking out for objects ourselves; and the agents we entrust are either pocketing our bounty, or bestowing it on the undeserving. At night when we retire to rest, we are venting our complaints on the miseries of the day, and praying heartily for the return of that peace, which was only the companion of our humblest situation.

THIS, sir, is my history; and if you give it a place in your paper, it may serve to inculcate this important truth, that where pain, sickness and absolute want are out of the question, no external change of circumstances can make a man more lastingly happy than he was before. It is to an ignorance of this truth, that the universal dissatisfaction of mankind is principally to be ascribed. Care is the lot of life;

life; and he that aspires to greatness in hopes to get rid of it, is like one who throws himself into a furnace to avoid the shivering of an ague.

THE only satisfaction I can enjoy in my present situation is, that it has not pleased Heaven in its wrath to make me a king.

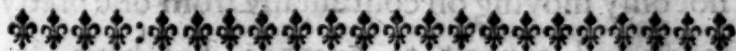
I am,

SIR,

Your constant reader

and most humble servant,

A. B.



NUMB. 175. THURSDAY, May 6, 1756.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

YOU must have frequently observed upon the face of that useful piece of machinery, a clock, the minute and hour hands, in their revolution through the twelve divisions of the

day, to be not only shifting continually from one figure to another, but to stand at times in a quite opposite direction to their former bearings, and to each other. Now I conceive this to be pretty much the case with that complicated piece of MECHANISM, a modern female or young woman of fashion: for as such I was accustomed to consider that part of the species, as having no power to determine their own motions and appearances, but as acted upon by the mode, and *set* to any point, which the party who took the lead, or (to speak more properly) its REGULATOR, pleased. But it has so happened in the circumrotation of modes and fashions, that the present set are not only moving on continually from one pretty fancy and conceit to another, but have departed quite aside from their former principles; dividing from each other in a circumstance, wherein they were always accustomed to unite, and uniting, where there was ever wont to be a distinction or difference.

I DO not know whether I make myself sufficiently understood; but you will easily comprehend my drift, when I tell you, that the prevailing mode, in respect of dress, is at present

sent to have no mode at all. There is now no such thing as an *uniform* among the ladies, no dutiful conformity to the pattern or standard, as heretofore: but the mode is *laid open*, and there appears the same spirit against a *conclusive fashion*, as against an *exclusive trade*. The pride now is to get as far away as possible, not only from the vulgar, but from one another, and that too, as well in the first principles of dress, as in its subordinate decorations: so that this fluctuating humour is perpetually shewing itself in some new and particular sort of cap, flounce, knot or tippet; and every woman that you meet, affects independency, and to set up for herself.

Now, as I profess myself to be a stickler for liberty, and against all invidious limitations, as well as a lover of variety, and an encourager of invention, I am therefore not displeased with these fair independents for this notable attempt of their's to vindicate the honour and freedom of their own fancies and judgments upon this occasion. But as they have wandered away from each other in the several articles of dress, so have they united altogether as happily in a point which cannot fail of recommending

mending itself to such as have a critical ear, and are apt to be offended with any disagreement of sounds, namely, in VOICE and ELOCUTION, in which they maintain a surprizing uniformity. A friend of mine, whose ear (as you will perceive from what I am going to relate of him) is not turned for our modern oratory, was introducing the other day some uncourtly observations upon this head, which I shall take the freedom to set down at full length.

“ THE beauty and power of speech, says he,
 “ was wont to be the result of clearness and
 “ perspicuity, of a distinct and harmonious
 “ elocution, of a just and proper cadence, together with a natural and easy diversity of
 “ manner and phrase, growing out of the
 “ subject, and congenial with it. Conversation
 “ is never so pleasing, as when it is composed
 “ of a well-ordered variety of persons and characters, tempering and recommending each
 “ other ; where the forward and importunate
 “ are qualified and restrained by the diffident
 “ and the modest ; the bold and peremptory
 “ by the more supple and complaisant ; where
 “ the spirited with the meek, the lively with
 “ the

“ the sedate, make a happy mixture, and all
 “ together go into the composition of an
 “ agreeable society. Whereas the conversa-
 “ tion of the female world (continues my
 “ friend) is at present all out of the same
 “ piece: all distinctions are taken away, and
 “ the several ranks and orders among them
 “ laid into one. There is one line of senti-
 “ ment, air, manner, tone and phrase, run-
 “ ning through the whole, and no discerning
 “ for a few seconds, a young woman with six
 “ or eight hundred pounds to her fortune,
 “ from a duchess; especially if she happens
 “ to have been allowed to keep company with
 “ her betters. I know several of these humble
 “ companions, who with no less impropriety
 “ than impotence, are ever straining them-
 “ selves and their throats in company, to get
 “ upon a level with their quality-friends; and
 “ at all other times you shall see them affect-
 “ ing to speak (as the Latins well express it)
 “ *ore rotundo*, full and sonorous, round and
 “ peremptory, with a very decisive emphasis, as
 “ if there could lie no appeal from their sen-
 “ tence; taking a larger scope for utterance,
 “ by opening their mouths to a disproportion-

“ ate

“ ate width ; infomuch, that I have looked
 “ upon myself, while in their company, as
 “ sitting in the midst of half a score hautboys,
 “ a sort of musick, that, when attempted by
 “ unskilful hands, has something in it mightily
 “ overbearing, though they tell me, when
 “ exercised by such as are qualified for it, and
 “ mixed with other instruments, it will an-
 “ swer very well. Such is the pomp of utter-
 “ ance of our present women of fashion;
 “ which, though it may tend to spoil many a
 “ pretty mouth, can never recommend an in-
 “ different one. And hence it is that there is
 “ so great a scarcity of originals, and that the
 “ ear is such a daily sufferer from an identity of
 “ phrase, whether it be *vastly*, *horridly*, *abomi-*
 “ *nably*, *immensely*, or *excessively*, which, with
 “ three or four more calculated for the same
 “ swiss-like service, make up the whole scale
 “ or gamut of modern female conversation.

“ **THERE** are many causes assigned (con-
 “ tinues he) why so many of the males live
 “ single, and it has been principally ascribed
 “ to the cheap and easy opportunities of grati-
 “ fication which fall in their way. Now this
 “ may in a great measure be true; but our
 “ fine

“ fine ladies forget, that while they are daily
 “ making some new revelation of their per-
 “ sons, and are so studious to furnish out a
 “ variety of entertainment to the eye, they
 “ have neglected to make a suitable provision
 “ for the ear ; and that, should love chance to
 “ straggle in at the former, he may yet find
 “ his way out at the latter. And I have fre-
 “ quently remarked, that when a female of
 “ this turn, with her sails and streamers out,
 “ has begun to *bear down*, in hopes of a prize,
 “ the object of the chace has constantly sheer-
 “ ed off, and left her to complain of her ill
 “ success to those much fitter companions, the
 “ winds and waves.

“ Now the members of this class are the
 “ most considerable in point of numbers : but
 “ when upon my retiring from some of these,
 “ and betaking myself to a distant and more
 “ peaceable quarter of the room, I have fallen
 “ in with others, whose conversation has been
 “ of a more moderate cast, and more under
 “ the wind, yet I have still observed the same
 “ monotony to prevail, the same conformity of
 “ manner and phrase, and that their pipes
 “ were all tuned to the same quality note.

“ For,

“ For, as in the former instance, the genera-
 “ lity of those in high life are ever raising their
 “ voices to a proportionable elevation above
 “ the ordinary level, and distinguishing them-
 “ selves by a round and sonorous elocution;
 “ so there are others of the same class, who
 “ seeing nature has not furnished them with
 “ an adequate strength of lungs, or with or-
 “ gans framed for a more bold and voluble
 “ utterance, have therefore a good deal of
 “ what Tully calls the *concisum ac minutum*, a
 “ laconic, mincing kind of speech, extremely
 “ quick and peremptory, equally emphatical
 “ and decisive, and generally enforced with a
 “ short dictatorial bridle and nod of the head,
 “ as an incontestible ratification of what they
 “ are pleased to affirm or deny. And these,
 “ as well as those above mentioned, have
 “ multitudes of inferior admirers and copyists
 “ in their train, pressing close behind, and
 “ treading upon their heels.

“ IT is true, I am an enemy, for the most
 “ part, to that reigning practice of making the
 “ person, who last left the company, a subject
 “ for general canvass by those that remain:
 “ yet whenever any of these non-originals

“ (whom

“ (whom we cannot so properly pronounce to
 “ be *full of themselves*, as *full of other people*)
 “ shall have taken her leave, and got the
 “ door upon her back, the company, in my
 “ opinion, should have free scope and licence
 “ to go into an immediate enquiry, who she
 “ is, what fortune she has, what her educa-
 “ tion has been, whether handsome, tolera-
 “ ble, or, &c. and so on through the usual
 “ course of particulars. In short”——

My friend was going on in the same strain,
 when I interposed, and began to expostulate
 with him upon some of the above particulars.

“ Nay, nay, says he, don’t think me partial
 “ neither; I may perhaps give them their re-
 “ venge upon our sex at some future opportu-
 “ nity;” and so left me.

UPON the whole, I very much suspect (as
 I said before) that my friend’s ear is none of
 the best; but at the same time I must do him
 the justice to observe, that I myself am at
 times somewhat deaf, and that he is generally
 allowed to be a very sensible well-judging man.

I am,

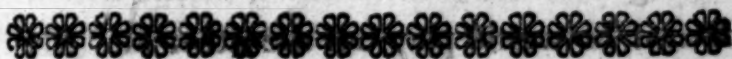
Mr. Fitz-Adam, &c.

My

My honest correspondent appears to be in some pain, lest the freedom and simplicity of his friend's argument may not happen to square with that delicacy and complaisance, which have been hitherto maintained by the WORLD towards the beautiful part of our species: but however that be, I must confess that I have fallen of late myself into somewhat of the same train of thinking.

It is certain, there is a distinction and subordination of *style*, as well as of *rank*, and a gradation to be preserved in point of *phrasology*, as well as of *precedency*. Any encroachment in the one case being altogether as unseemly as in the other. An affectation of *talking* above our level, is as bad as *dressing* above it; and that which is current within the precinct of St. James's, will hardly pass any where else. Here the originals are to be found; all the rest are counterfeits, and are easily discovered. Nay, though people of quality have the unquestionable privilege of breaking the peace, and violating the laws of grace and harmony, there ought nevertheless to be a due proportion observed even among these. Thus a duchess may be twice as loud
and

and overbearing as a countess ; a countess as a simple baroness, and so downward : but such a pompousness of elocution, phrase, and manner (as my correspondent's acquaintance seems to point at) such *great swelling words*, must, one would think, set as ill upon one of a moderate face, rank, or fortune, as a great swelling hoop is found to do upon another not five foot high.



NUMB. 176. THURSDAY, *May 13, 1756.*

GOING to visit an old friend at his country seat last week, I found him at backgammon with the vicar of the parish. My friend received me with the heartiest welcome, and introduced the doctor to my acquaintance. This gentleman, who seemed to be about fifty, and of a florid and healthy constitution, surveyed me all over with great attention, and after a slight nod of the head, sat himself down without opening his mouth. I was a little hurt at the supercilious behaviour of this divine, which my friend observing, told me very pleasantly, that I was rather too old to be entitled to

to the doctor's complaisance; for that he seldom bestowed it but upon the young and vigorous: but, says he, you will know him better soon, and may probably think it worth your while to *book* him in the WORLD; for you will find him altogether as odd a character as he is a worthy one. The doctor made no reply to this raillery, but continued some time with his eyes fixed upon me, and at last, shaking his head, and turning to my friend, asked if he would play out the other hit. My friend excused himself from engaging any more that evening, and ordered a bottle of wine, with pipes and tobacco, to be set on the table. The vicar filled his pipe, and drank very cordially to my friend, still eying me with a seeming dislike, and neither drinking my health, nor speaking a single word to me. As I have long accustomed myself to drink nothing but water, I called for a bottle of it, and drank glass for glass with them; which upon the doctor's observing, he shook his head at my friend, and in a whisper, loud enough for me to hear, said, "Poor man, it's all over with him, I see." My friend smiled, and answered in the same audible whisper, "No, no, doctor,"

"Mr.

“ Mr. Fitz-Adam intends to live as long as
 “ either of us.” He then addressed himself to
 me on the occurrences of the town, and drew
 me into a very chearful conversation, which
 lasted till I withdrew to rest ; at which time
 the doctor rose from his chair, drank a bumper
 to my health, and giving me a hearty
 shake by the hand, told me I was a very jolly
 old gentleman, and that he wished to be better
 acquainted with me during my stay in the
 country.

I ROSE early in the morning, and found the
 doctor in the breakfast room. He saluted me
 with great civility, and told me he had left his
 bed and home sooner than usual, to have the
 pleasure of taking a walk with me. “ Your
 “ friend, says he, is but lately recovered from
 “ an attack of the gout, and will hardly be
 “ stirring till we have gone over his improve-
 “ ments.” I accepted of the proposal, and we
 walked through a very elegant garden into the
 most beautiful fields that can be imagined ;
 which as I stopped to admire, the doctor began
 thus. “ These are indeed, Mr. Fitz-
 “ Adam, very delightful grounds ; and I wish
 “ with all my heart that the owner of them
 “ was

“ was less troubled with the gout, that I might
 “ hold him in more respect”——“ Respect!
 “ doctor, said I, interrupting him, does a pain-
 “ ful distemper, acquired by no act of intem-
 “ perance, lessen your respect?” “ It does
 “ indeed, Mr. Fitz-Adam, and I wish, in this
 “ instance, I could help it; for I am under
 “ many obligations to your friend. There is
 “ another very worthy gentleman in the
 “ neighbourhood, who presented me to this
 “ vicarage; but he has the misfortune to la-
 “ bour under an inveterate scurvy, which by
 “ subjecting him to continual head-achs, must
 “ of course shorten his days; and so I never
 “ go near him.”

I WAS going to interrupt the doctor again,
 when a coach and six drove by us along the
 road, and in it a gentleman, who let down
 the glass, and made the doctor a very respect-
 ful bow; which instead of returning, he passed
 by him with a stately air, and took no notice
 of him. This instance of his behaviour, to-
 gether with the conversation that had passed
 between us, raised my curiosity to a very high
 degree, and set me upon asking him who the
 gentleman was. “ Sir, says he, that unfor-
 tunate

I

“ for which I honour you, and, as I told you
 “ then, shall be glad of your acquaintance.
 “ ’Tis true you are an old man, and there-
 “ fore my inferior; but you are healthy and
 “ temperate, and not beneath the notice of
 “ much younger men.”

IN this manner we walked on, till we came
 to a hedge, where some labouring men were
 repairing the fences. My companion accosted
 them with the utmost complaisance and good-
 nature. “ Ay, says he, turning to me, these
 “ are men worth mixing with. You see their
 “ riches in their looks. Have you any of
 “ your lords in town, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that
 “ have such possessions? I know none of these
 “ lords, says he, myself, but I am told they
 “ are all so sickly and diseased, that a man
 “ in health would scorn to pull off his hat to
 “ them.” He then entered into a familiar
 conversation with the men, and after throw-
 ing them six pence to drink, passed on.

THERE now overtook us in the lane a
 company of sportsmen setting out for the
 chace. Most of them saluted the doctor as
 they passed. But he took no notice of any
 of them but one, whom he shook hands with

over

“fortunate object is a man of eight thousand a
 “year estate; and from that consideration he
 “expects the return of a bow from every man
 “he meets. But I, who know him, know
 “also that he is dying of an asthma; and as
 “(blessed be God for it) I am in perfect
 “health, I do not chuse to put myself on a
 “level with such a person. Health, Mr.
 “Fitz-Adam, is the only valuable thing on
 “earth; and while I am in possession of that,
 “I look upon myself as a much greater man
 “than he. With all his fortune, he would re-
 “joice to be the poor vicar of ***, with My
 “constitution. I pull off my hat to no such
 “persons. Believe me, Mr. Fitz-Adam, he
 “has not many months to live.”

I MADE no reply to this conversation of the
 vicar, and he went on thus. “You are an
 “old man, Mr. Fitz-Adam, and I believe
 “were a little fatigued with your journey last
 “night, which I mistook for infirm health,
 “and therefore was wanting in the civilities
 “that I should otherwise have shewn you;
 “but your conversation afterwards proved
 “you to be a very hearty man, and I saw you
 “resolved to continue so by your temperance;
 “for

over the hedge, and told him he intended
 taking a dinner with him the next day. “That
 “gentleman, says he, is worth as much health
 “as any man in England; he hunts only by
 “way of exercise, and never takes a leap
 “where there is the least danger. But as for
 “the rest, they are flying over every hedge
 “and gate in their way, and if they escape
 “broken necks in the morning, they are de-
 “stroying themselves more effectually by in-
 “temperance in the evening. No, no, Mr.
 “Fitz-Adam, these are no companions for
 “me; I hope, with the blessing of Heaven, to
 “out-live a score of them.”

WE came soon after to a little neat house
 upon the road, where the doctor told me lived
 a very agreeable widow lady, to whom he had
 formerly paid his addresses. “She had at
 “that time, says he, as large a fortune of
 “health as any woman in the county; but
 “she has since mortgaged it to the apotheca-
 “ry for slops, and I have taken my leave of
 “her. She was determined to be a widow,
 “and so married an officer, who had his head
 “knocked off at Fontenoy. Those are a
 “sort of men that I make no acquaintance
 “with; they hold their lives on too precari-
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“ous a tenure.” “But they are useful members of society, said I, and command our esteem.” “That may be, sir, returned the doctor, and so are the miners in our coal-pits, who are every hour in danger of being buried alive. But there is a subordination of degree, Mr. Fitz-Adam, which ought strictly to be observed; and a man in ill health, or of a dangerous profession, should not think himself on a level with people of sound constitutions, and less hazardous employments.”

I was determined to interrupt the doctor no more; and he went on thus. “Mr. Fitz-Adam, you may possibly think me an odd kind of a man; but I am no enemy to people of bad constitutions, nor ever withhold my bounty from them, when their necessities demand it; but though I am doing them all the services in my power, I cannot consent to lower myself so far as to make them my companions. It is more in the power of the physician to confer rank, than the king; for the gifts of fortune are nothing; health is the only riches that a man ought to set a value on; and without
“it,

“ it, all men are poor, let their estates be what
 “ they will. If I differ from the common opi-
 “ nion in this particular, I do also in another.
 “ The tradesman or mechanic, who has ac-
 “ quired an estate by his industry, is seldom
 “ reckoned a gentleman; but it was always
 “ my sentiment, that a man who makes his
 “ own constitution, has more merit in him
 “ than he that was born with it: the one is
 “ the work of chance, the other of design:
 “ and it is for this reason that I am seen so
 “ often with your friend: for though the gout
 “ is generally an impoverishing distemper, yet
 “ temperance and regularity may in time sub-
 “ due it: whereas the gentleman who drove
 “ by us with his six horses, has an incurable
 “ asthma, which renders him, with his large
 “ estate, as poor as the beggar who is dying
 “ under a hedge. The more you think of these
 “ things, Mr. Fitz-Adam, the more you will
 “ be of my opinion. A poor man in health, is
 “ a companion for a king; but a lord without
 “ it, is a poor man indeed; and why should
 “ he expect the homage of other people, when
 “ the very meanest of his domestics would
 “ refuse to change places with him?”

My companion was stopped short in his harangue by our arrival at my friend's house. We found him in good health and spirits, which greatly heightened the vicar's complaisance : and as I took care to conceal from him the complaints and infirmities of old age, I passed a very agreeable week, and was so much in his good graces, that at my departure he presented me with some Turlington's balsam, and a paper of Dr. James's powder. " There, " says he, they may rob you of your money if " they please ; but for bruises and fevers, you " may set them at defiance."

ON my return home, I made many serious reflections on this whimsical character ; and in the end, could not help wishing, that, under certain limitations, the sentiments of the vicar were a little more in fashion. Health is certainly the riches of life ; and if men were to derive their rank from that alone, it would in all probability make them more careful to preserve it. Society might be benefited by it in another respect, as it would tend to keep complaining people at home, who are the perpetual disturbers of all companies abroad.



NUMB. 177. THURSDAY, *May 20, 1756.*

THE two following letters are so whimsically contrasted, and the young people who are the subjects of them so particularly adapted to each other, that though I have never professed myself an advocate for the trade of match-making, I cannot help wishing that by means of this paper they may grow acquainted with each other. It is for this reason that I have taken the very first opportunity of publishing the letters of their parents.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

As you have undertaken the social office of redressing grievances, I shall lay one before you, which I am sure must have often occurred to you, though I do not remember that you have hitherto animadverted upon it. The grievance I am speaking of is of so fatal a tendency, that wit, parts, learning, education, knowledge, reading and travel, are rendered

C 3

utterly

utterly useless by it, and by which the most illiterate dunce, who has never been at school, nor opened a book besides the Fairy Tales, provided his outside be properly ornamented, is exactly upon a level with the most accomplished gentleman. This grievance, Mr. Fitz-Adam, is no other than the pernicious custom of card-playing, which has of late so universally prevailed in all private families, as well as public assemblies.

I AM not considering this custom in its necessary consequences of destroying fortunes and constitutions, ruffling tempers, promoting quarrels, and occasioning almost infinite distresses and disquietudes; for if taken singly in this point of view, it is only hurtful to those who are the promoters of it, and is of little or no consequence to the rest of mankind, who are not sharers in the evil.

I MUST inform you, sir, that I am the father of an only son, to whom (as I have a large estate to leave him) I have given the most perfect education that this country can afford: and it is the highest satisfaction to me that none of my care has been thrown away upon him. When he had finished his studies at the university,

versity, and perfected himself in town in all the necessary accomplishments of a young man of fashion, I sent him under the direction of a very excellent tutor, on his travels through France, Italy and Germany; from which, after an absence of four years, he returned last winter, improved beyond my utmost hopes.

BUT, alas, sir! when I expected to see him the admiration of all companies, and to have been every where congratulated on the happiness of having such a son, I found, from the universal attention to cards, that his acquirements were totally unnoticed, and that all the cost and trouble I had been at in his education, answered no other purpose than to make him company for himself, and a few unfashionable friends who have no commerce with the world.

If this insatiable passion continues, it were as well if our public schools and universities were abolished, and that travel and all other means of acquiring knowledge and refinement were at once prohibited; and in their places, other seminaries erected in this metropolis, and proper masters appointed, to instruct our children in the rudiments of Brag, Cribbage,

and Lanfquenet, till they were of a proper age to study Whist, and the other games of skill, at the academy of Mr. Hoyle. By such a method our children would be trained up to make a figure in the world, and their parents saved the trouble and expence of a useless education.

I WISH, Mr. Fitz-Adam, you would give us your thoughts upon this matter, which will certainly be agreeable to the serious part of your readers, and a great obligation to,

S I R,

Your most humble servant,

C. Y.

P. S. SINCE my writing the above, I have been looking over the first volume of the WORLD, and am sorry to find Mr. Fitz-Adam himself so very fashionable a man, as to countenance and recommend with his pen the grievances I have been complaining of. In number VII. of your papers, you are pleased to express yourself in the following words.

“ I look

“ I look upon CARDS as an innocent and useful amusement ; calculated to interrupt the formal conversations and private cabals of large companies, and to give a man something to do, who has nothing to say.” If I had been your adviser, Mr. Fitz-Adam, the passage should have stood thus. “ I look upon CARDS as a senseless and pernicious amusement, calculated to interrupt the improving conversations and enlivening fallies of all companies, and to level men of genius and understanding with fools and coxcombs.” This is really the truth of the matter ; and if you consider it as you ought, you will, I hope, retract your opinion as publicly as you have given it.

Yours, &c.

THE other letter is from a mother, complaining of the untoward disposition of an only daughter.

S I R,

I AM a widow of five-and-thirty, with a handsome jointure and have refused many good offers for the sake of an only child,

whom I have endeavoured to bring up in the most fashionable manner I was able. She will have twelve thousand pounds to her fortune when she comes of age, and I have supported her at my own expence, that the interest of her portion may be added to the principal. I assure you, sir, that I am not like other mothers of my youth and complexion, who in order to appear younger than they really are, confine their grown-up daughters at home, for fear of being rivalled by them in public assemblies. I thank Heaven I have no need of such arts : for as often as I go abroad with mine, I am taken for her sister ; and I have the pleasure of observing, that I have more civil things said to me by the men, than my daughter can ever hope for. Not that the girl is either ugly or awkward ; she is as tall too as her mother, and has been of a marriageable age this year or two, being complete fifteen the 12th of last March : but as a colonel in the guards was pleased to tell me a few nights ago at Ranelagh, I have a certain air and manner, that my daughter must quite despair of imitating.

I MENTION these trifles, sir, to convince you that I have not the motive of other mothers for locking up my daughter whenever I go abroad: on the contrary, I have carried her, at times, to all the polite assemblies in town: but alas, sir! I cannot make her company for people of fashion. She will neither play at cards with them, nor enter into the spirit of their conversation. She even pretends to blush at (what she calls) the liberties I allow the men to take with me. She would not toast a sentiment for the world; and for those delicate double entendres, that so enliven all private companies, I cannot for the life of me teach her to understand them. To be sure the girl has not so white a skin as her mother, nor can she value herself upon that beautiful fall of shoulders, and elegance of neck, for which (I may say it without vanity) I was always admired. But then, Mr. Fitz-Adam, those parts of her person are not absolutely odious; though by pinning her handkerchief constantly under her chin, she would make every body believe so.

I HAVE taken immense pains in her education to fit her for the world; but it is my
misfortune

misfortune to see, that from an unaccountable perverseness of mind, she had rather shut herself up in her closet, poring upon the Spectators (which to my knowledge she has read twenty times over) than sit down to a card-table with the first company in England. And yet the girl does not want understanding neither; nay, her uncle in the country, who is a clergyman and an archdeacon, will have it that she is the most accomplished young lady this day in England. But what can a country parson know of accomplishments? We who live in the polite circle, are certainly the best judges of those matters. She plays well upon the music indeed, and has an immense pretty voice; but the misfortune is, that when she should be dressing for a rout, she is either practising a lesson, or singing a song; so that I must be forced to go without her, or stay till the card-tables are all full. A fig for her accomplishments; I am sure they have almost broke my heart; and I verily believe I shall be tempted to marry again, that I may have other children of more towardly dispositions. It was but last sunday, after spending the evening at cards, at the politest assembly in

in town (where I would gladly have taken her) that at my return home, I found her in her dressing room, reading a sermon to her maid. I am by no means against sermons, Mr. Fitz-Adam; they do well enough at church; and when they are enlivened by good company, I can endure them as well as anybody: but the morning is the time for those sort of things, and they ought never to interfere with more agreeable amusements.

THE girl has another whim too. You must know she is naturally of a pale complexion; and for all that I can say or do, I cannot prevail upon her to lay on a little red, even though she sees every day how becoming it is to Me, who do not need it so much: so that she goes into company like a mere ghost: but of what sex, if it were not for her petticoats, would be hard to determine; for she is absolutely covered from head to foot. She had the fauciness to tell me the other day, that I wanted her to dress and look like a woman of the town. I would have you dress and look like a woman of the world, Miss, says I; but to your shame be it spoken, there are
women

women of the town, who are capable of improving you. One may look like a woman of the town, though one would scorn to act like one.

IN this manner, Mr. Fitz-Adam, she talks and behaves. I have threatened her often to expose her in the *WORLD*: but my immense tenderness for her has prevailed over my resentment: and to confess the truth, I had no other intention when I drew up this letter, than only to read it to her, and frighten her out of her follies; but her behaviour upon the occasion determined me to send it, and to desire your publication of it. “Lord, mamma, said she, Mr. Fitz-Adam will think you ridiculing Yourself, and complimenting Me: for if I am really this kind of girl, I shall be quite in love with myself. Pray, madam, give me the letter, and I’ll carry it to Mr. Dodsley’s with my own hands.” “No, miss, says I, a servant will be more punctual I believe: and since you are so in love with your own character, it shall go this minute.”

FAVOUR me so far, sir, as to give it a place

place in your next Thursday's paper; and if you will tell her of her absurdity, and how ill suited her behaviour is both to her education and her fortune, you will immensely oblige,

SIR,

Your most obedient

bumble servant,

M. C.



NUMB. 178. THURSDAY, May 27, 1756.

NOT long since, I met at St. James's coffee-house an old acquaintance of mine, fir Harry Prigg; who having been long rusticated, and much altered, I should never have recollected, had it not been for the information of a fine old coat, in which I remembered him to have made a figure about town many years ago. After the usual civilities had passed between us, amongst many other questions,

questions, he asked me when I had seen our old school-fellow, sir John Jolly.* I answered, that I had last summer spent some days with him at his country seat, in a manner which would have been highly agreeable to a person of a more fashionable turn, but was to me rather fatiguing from its excess of gaiety and hospitality, which, according to my unpolite taste, were by no means consistent with the soft and serious pleasures of a rural retirement. He said, he perfectly agreed with me in my sentiments, and passed his time in the country in conformity to them: his manner of life, he was sure, would exactly suit me, and obligingly begged I would make the experiment, adding, that he should go down in a few days, and would carry me with him in his chariot. I accepted his invitation, not so much out of inclination, as curiosity to see a new scene of country life, formed on principles so opposite to what I had before experienced, and promised to attend him at the time appointed.

BUT first it will be proper to give some ac-

* See Number 153.

count of the birth, parentage, and education of my friend. He came young to his title, and a small estate, and was soon after sent to the university; where his title absurdly giving him the rank of nobility, and his estate, tho' small, an allowance sufficient to support that rank at that place, he there contracted an affectation of grandeur, and a pert kind of self-importance, which he has ever since retained, and which neither poverty nor solitude has yet been able to conquer. Having in two or three years acquired the usual advantages of that sort of education, such as the arts of sporting, toasting, billiards and coachmanship, he came to London, entered into the gay world, and had address and qualifications sufficient to introduce himself into what he still calls the best company; that is, the company of smarts, bucks, jockeys and gamesters. Nor was he deficient in point of gallantry; for he soon commenced an intrigue with the sister of one of these his friends. Whether his intentions were at first honourable, is not perfectly clear; but he was quickly obliged to declare them so, being acquainted, that a lady of her rank was not to be trifled with, and that he must either
fight

fight or marry; the latter of which he courageously chose, as being the most daring action of the two. This lady had more gentility than beauty, more beauty than understanding, more understanding than fortune, and a fortune about equal to her reputation. She was tall and well-shaped, carried her head very high, and being the younger daughter of the younger son of the first cousin of an Irish baron, looked upon herself as a woman of quality. In a little time sir Harry heartily hated her for compelling him to marry; and she no less despised him for being compelled: so that finding little happiness at home, they were obliged to seek it abroad at plays and routs, operas and gaming-tables, at no small expence. This could not continue long; so that before one winter was at an end, they discovered that the town-air would not agree with them, and so retired to their country seat, about forty miles from London; whither I shall now conduct my reader.

ON the morning appointed, I attended early at their lodgings in town, where I found the post-chariot at the door, and my friend standing by it, with a long whip in his hand,
ready

ready to mount the box; saying at the same time, that coachmen were such insolent and expensive rascals, there was no keeping them, and that therefore he always chose to be his own. In the parlour sat my lady, and colonel Macsheat, a gentleman who had long been very intimate with sir Harry, and not less so with her ladyship; and in the passage stood her French-woman, in a sack and long ruffles, with her arms full of band-boxes and bundles; which were no sooner disposed of in various parts of the chariot, than my lady and myself, with her woman on a low stool at our feet, were stuffed into the little room that was left. Sir Harry mounted the box, his valet de chambre rode by, and a sniveling footboy climbed up behind. Thus the whole family with their baggage, and myself into the bargain, were conveyed without the expence of either a stage coach or a waggon.

Nothing passed during our journey worth relating. Her ladyship spoke little, and that little was only complaints of her bad nerves, and ill state of health; to which, having no expectation of a fee, I paid little attention. They both declared that nobody but a carrier could

could dine at an inn, therefore they never stopped on the road : so with the assistance of a fresh pair of horses, that had come twenty miles that morning without a bait, about sunset we arrived at our journey's end. The colonel got there before us, having rode post : for sir Harry frequently declared to us both, that, though his friends were welcome, he never entertained their horses ; that it was not the fashion of that country ; neither my lord **, nor the duke of ***, nor himself did it.

It was not long before the dinner made its appearance ; which was so very genteel, that had it not been rendered uneatable by a bad affectation of French cookery, it would not have been half sufficient, after so many miles travelling, and so long fasting. At the conclusion we had mead, which passed for tokay, and elder wine, which sir Harry swore was the best burgundy in England, and that he himself had imported it, in conjunction with a noble lord in the neighbourhood. Over a glass of this, the cloth being removed, he informed us, “ that when the smoke of London, and
“ the bad hours incident to keeping good com-
pany,

"pany, would no longer agree with his own
 "or his wife's constitution, he had deter-
 "mined to seek health and quiet in an ele-
 "gant retirement. He had been offered in-
 "deed a seat in parliament, and a consider-
 "able employment; but his crazy constitution
 "would not permit him to accept of the one,
 "nor his sound principles of the other. Re-
 "tirement was their object; therefore all they
 "dreaded was the horrible irruptions of a
 "country neighbourhood; but this they had
 "happily prevented. That indeed on their
 "first coming, every family within ten miles
 "round, tormented them with their imper-
 "tinent visits; but they returned none, af-
 "fronted them all, and so got rid of them.
 "Don't you think we did right, my dear?
 "turning to his wife." "I think, answered
 "she, in a surly and dejected voice, that it
 "is better to forget the use of one's tongue,
 "than to converse with squires wives, and
 "parsons daughters." "You are right, madam,
 "added the colonel, with an oath and a loud
 "laugh; for what can one learn in such
 "damned company?" "To-morrow, says
 "my friend, addressing himself to me, you
 "shall

“shall see that we want no company, and
 “that we can sufficiently amuse ourselves
 “with building and planting, with improve-
 “ments and alterations, which I dare say
 “will be honoured with your approbation.”

ACCORDINGLY the next morning, as soon as breakfast was finished, my lady and the colonel retired into her dressing room to cribbage, and sir Harry and myself to reconnoitre the place. The house stands at the end of a dirty village, and close by it are a few tame deer, impounded in an orchard, to which he gives the pompous title of a park. Behind is a fen, which he calls a piece of water, and before it a goose-common, on which he bestows the name of a lawn. It was but that deplorable æra of English architecture, which introduced high doors, long windows, small rooms, and corner chimneys; and of gardening, which projected gravel walks, clipt yews, and strait lined avenues, with a profusion of brick walls, iron pallisado's and leaden images. But all these defects, and many others, he has now corrected by a judicious application of modern taste. His doors are so reduced, you cannot enter with your hat on;

on ; and his windows so contracted, that you have scarce light enough to find it, if you pull it off. In the midst of the front, one large bow window is stuck on, resembling a piece of whited-brown paper plaistered on a broken nose ; and a great room is added behind to dine in, which, was it ever inhabited, would make all the little ones appear still less : but having never yet been finished, for want both of cash and credit, it remains at present only a repository for broken china, a pair of backgammon tables, and the children's play things. His brick walls are converted into chimneys and ovens, and his yew-trees supply them with faggots : his iron-work is sold to the blacksmiths, and his heathen gods to the plumber, for the pious use of covering the parish church : his gravel walks are sown with grass ; and he frequently repeats that frugal, yet genteel maxim, that sheep are the best gardeners. His horse-pond being made serpentine, is become useless, lest it should be trod up ; and his fences, being all Chinese, are no fences at all ; the horses leaping over, and the hogs walking under them at their pleasure. The transplanted avenue is expiring in
leafless

leaffess platoons ; the kitchen-garden, for conveniency, is removed two furlongs from the house ; and the kitchen itself unjustly turned out of doors, for sinelling of victuals ; a crime of which it has ever been acquitted by the voice of the whole country.

WHEN our survey was finished, our amusements were all at an end ; for within doors the pleasures both of society and solitude were equally wanting. Of our conversation I have given a specimen ; and books there were none, except a small one containing tunes for the French-horn, belonging to sir Harry, and the third volume of Peregrine Pickle, and a methodist prayer-book, the property of her ladyship. I began now to wish for a little of my friend sir John's hospitality, of which there was not here the least appearance. We heard not of a human creature, except by their injuries and insults, not altogether indeed unprovoked ; for the pantry and the cellar, though usually empty, were always locked. Strong-beer there was none ; and the small, though nobody at home could drink it, was not suffered to be given away. The servants were always out of humour, and frequently changing

changing; and the tradesmen who brought their bills, were paid only by a wrangle, or a draught on some tenant who owed no rent. There was not a neighbour very near, except the parson of the parish, and alderman Grub, a rich citizen, who had purchased a considerable part of it from sir Harry. With these they lived in a state of perpetual hostilities: they quarrelled with the alderman for presuming to buy an estate which they wanted to sell; and the parson quarrelled with Them, because he was in possession of the only living in the gift of sir Harry, and the alderman had a much better to dispose of. By the encouragement of these good neighbours, and their own ill-conduct, consisting of a strange mixture of insolence and avarice, of meanness and magnificence, they were despised, persecuted and affronted by all around them. Their pigs were worried, their poultry murdered, their dogs poisoned, their game destroyed, their hedges broke, and their haystacks set on fire. They were hissed and hooted at; and now and then a great pair of horns were fixed on their gates; an insult at

which they were highly intraged, but the meaning of which neither fir Harry, nor my lady, not even with the assistance of the colonel, could ever guess at.

I soon grew weary of this land of contention and uneasiness; and having recourse to the old excuse of urgent business, I took my leave, and went post to town; reflecting all the way with surprise on the ingenuity of mankind, to render themselves at once miserable and ridiculous; and lamenting that the happiness and innocence of rural life are now scarce any where to be found, but in pastorals and romances.



NUMB. 179. THURSDAY, *June 3, 1756.*

I AM never better pleased than when I can oblige a group of correspondents at once. This I am enabled to do in my paper of to-day.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

The expediency of people's putting up bills at their doors, who have houses or lodgings to let, is so very apparent, that as often as I walk the streets of this metropolis, I wonder that the same practice has not prevailed in other instances, and that we do not see it written at every door, as often as there is occasion, wanted a coachman, butler, cook, chambermaid, &c. By such a method the expence of public advertisements would be saved, and everybody accomodated in the most expeditious manner.

BUT I would by no means confine these bills to lodgers and servants; there are other

wants which are at least equally pressing, and which it might be proper to signify in the same public manner. Thus for instance, at the door of an attorney, or solicitor, it would not be amiss if we were to read in large letters, *Wanted Honesty*. At the door of a new beneficed parson, *Wanted Humility*. At the garret window of a poet or author, *Wanted a Dinner*. At the door of a man of quality, *Wanted Credit*. At the door of a patriot, *Wanted a Place*. At the door of a bishop, *Wanted a House at Lambeth*. And at the doors of all great men, *Wanted Sincerity*.

By this method, the wants of all mankind would be known, and in all probability be relieved more expeditiously than by any other means.

If you give this proposal a place in your paper, you will oblige the public in general, and in particular,

SIR,

Your most humble servant,

C. L.

MR.

MR. FITZ-ADAM,

THE following advertisement has lately fallen into my hands: and I believe, with a few of your observations upon it, it might furnish some entertainment for the public, as you have already made some very just remarks upon servants, in your paper of the first of January last.

I am,

SIR, &c.

ADVERTISEMENT.

“THE grooms of the chambers, butlers,
“and other servants of persons of quality,
“concerned in card-money, are desired to
“meet at the society’s quarterly meeting place,
“St. James’s, on Friday the 12th of this
“instant March, at nine in the morning, to
“take under consideration the further duty said
“to be intended to be laid on cards.

“*Note*, IT is desired that no gentleman,
“&c. belonging to noblemen or others, will
“enter into any agreement with their ladies,
“as to card-money, &c. till after this meeting.

“The servants of citizens and tradesmen,
 “whose mistresses keep routs, may attend if
 “they think proper.

“THE best of teas, French roles and butter will be provided on the occasion.”

To the AUTHOR of the WORLD.

SIR,

I AM married to a haberdasher of small-wares at the court end of the town; and with Heaven's help and my own, my husband has been able to lay up a few hundreds for our two girls, who are all the children we have. They both serve in the shop every day in the week but Thursday, when I have a little assembly in the dining room, where we amuse ourselves with a pack of cards.

Now you must know, sir, that my husband is very much offended at this, and is telling me twenty times a day, that his customers are neglected, and the business of the shop standing still from my fooleries, as he calls them. I do not deny, sir, that these assemblies on a weekday are a little inconvenient to us, and therefore I have some thoughts of changing them

them to Sunday. To be sure a Sunday's assembly would be perfectly agreeable on many accounts. In the first place, it would interfere with no sort of business. Secondly, it would be much genteeler. Thirdly, I should see a great deal more company; and fourthly, my husband and the prentice would then be at leisure to attend the tea-table. But I have one doubt about the matter, which is, that there are envious people in the world, who might possibly give out that I am setting up for a person of fashion; for it is a notion they have got, that none but people of fashion should have routs on a Sunday. At present I am undetermined in this affair, and am resolved to continue so, till I have Your opinion; which I beg you would give me as soon as possible, and

I am,

SIR,

Your very humble servant,

MARY TAPE.

IN answer to Mrs. TAPE, I freely confess that she has more substantial reasons for having her rout on a Sunday than any lady I know: and whenever I give my assent to card-meetings on that day, she shall certainly be indulged.

MR. FITZ-ADAM,

I HAVE lately made a discovery, which for the good of mankind, I hope you will permit me to make public by the means of your paper.

I MUST inform you, that by the death of an aunt, I am lately come to the possession of a fine old manor house in the country, which, on my going thither with my family to reside, I found so over-run with rats, that we were in danger of being devoured by them. You may be sure I left nothing untried to rid the house of them; but they baffled the attempts of the rat-catchers, and continued to increase rather than diminish; till all at once, they vanished of their own accord, and never visited me afterwards. I was very much puzzled to account for this strange desertion: and it was not till near a fortnight had elapsed that I

was

was let into the secret, by a very uncommon and offensive smell, that proceeded from the door of an old lumber room. I immediately entered it, and saw a multitude of rats lying dead upon the floor. On examining into the cause, I cast my eyes upon a little drawer, which I remembered to have left open in my search after some papers of my aunt, and that it was filled with various sorts of quack medicines, such as pills, powders, ointments and other things, for which she had the highest veneration. This drawer, which was quite full when I opened it, was now almost empty; which sufficiently convinced me that I was indebted for my deliverance to these medicines; but I was cautious of asserting it, till I had tried the experiment. For this purpose I procured of a rat-catcher half a dozen live rats; to each of which I gave a different medicine. In half an hour and three minutes, two of my patients died in convulsions; the rest were thrown into profuse sweats, vomiting and purging to so violent a degree, that they survived their companions but three quarters of an hour, and then gave up the ghost in the same convulsions.

I WAS highly pleased with this experiment, as it taught me the real use of these excellent medicines; and it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity of recommending them to all captains of ships, maltsters, meal-men and farmers, and to those gentlemen and ladies who live in old houses.

I am,

SIR,

Your constant reader

and humble servant,

G. H.

P. S. By a second experiment, I have discovered that one of these pills, pounded or crumbled, will destroy twenty mice. They may also be of excellent use in thinning a poor family of young children, being thus pounded or bruised, and spread in small quantities upon their bread and butter.

I SHALL conclude this paper with a very ingenious little piece, which is just now communicated to me by my good friend, Mr. Doddsley, and which shews what an agreeable and elegant

gant use a man of taste and memory may make of his reading. It was thrown together by a member of a society of gentlemen, who meet once a year to celebrate the birth-day of Shakespear, and is as follows.

ON THE
BIRTH-DAY
OF
SHAKESPEAR,
A CENTO.

TAKEN FROM HIS WORKS.

*Naturâ ipsâ valere, et mentis viribus excitari,
et quasi quodam. divino spiritu afflari.*

CICERO.

—————Peace to this meeting,
Joy and fair time, health and good wishes.
Now, worthy friend, the cause why we are met,
Is in celebration of the day that gave
Immortal SHAKESPEAR to this favour'd isle;
The most replenished sweet work of nature,
Which from the prime creation e'er she fram'd.

O thou

O thou divinest nature! how thyself thou blazon'st
 In this thy son! form'd in thy prodigality,
 To hold thy mirror up, and give the time
 Its very form and pressure! When he speaks
 Each aged ear plays truant at his tales,
 And younger hearings are quite ravished;
 So voluble is his discourse ——— Gentle
 As zephyr blowing underneath the violet,
 Not wagging its sweet head ——— Yet as rough,
 (His noble blood enchaff'd) as the rude wind,
 That by the top doth take the mountain pine,
 And make him stoop to th' vale — 'Tis wonderful
 That an invisible instinct should frame him
 To loyalty, unlearn'd; honour untaught;
 Civility, not seen in other; knowledge
 That wildly grows in him, but yields a crop
 As if it had been sown. What a piece of work!
 How noble in faculty! Infinite in reason!
 A combination and a form indeed,
 Where every god did seem to set his seal.
 Heav'n has him now — Yet let our idolatrous fancy
 Still sanctify his relicts; and this day
 Stand aye distinguish'd in the kalendar
 To the last syllable of recorded time:
 For if we take him but for all in all
 We ne'er shall look upon his like again.

NUMB. 180. THURSDAY, *June* 10, 1756.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

YOU have reading and experience enough to know, that some of the greatest ornaments and conveniencies of life owe their rise to inconsiderable beginnings; and on the contrary, that little abuses and mistakes, by continual repetitions and aggravations, have grown into calamities, which have severely exercised, as well the wisdom, as the patience of mankind. In this light it is hoped the following petition will be considered. It was not drawn up barely to amuse your readers for five or six minutes, but with a view to very important consequences that may possibly be derived from it. Your labours sufficiently intimate that you consider your species as one great family, of which you are a member, and consequently under an obligation to counte-

nance every thing that has a tendency to its advancement. It is for that reason application is made to you.

I am,

SIR,

*Your constant reader
and humble servant.*

THE
HUMBLE PETITION
OF

ALL THE LETTERS IN THE ALPHABET,
EXCEPT E, AND O.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioners cannot without great violence to their modesty, insist upon any thing that may reflect honour upon themselves; but the necessity of the case will plead their excuse, and therefore they beg leave most humbly to represent, that in conjunction with E and O, they have been for many ages, in a great part of the world, the only support of the whole intercourse

tercourse of human life. By them men have been enabled to converse when they met, and to communicate their thoughts to each other at any distance. By them the social pleasures exist, are multiplied and improved, to a degree not easily conceived by those, who either from ignorance, or a too constant familiarity, are apt to contract a sort of contempt for objects of the greatest use.

THE body which your petitioners almost entirely compose, is known to consist of but few individuals; and the business they are employed in is infinite: yet no transaction has ever suffered from any defect in them. Under proper direction, they never fail to execute what is intended, though in the course of their service, circumstances frequently occur of the nicest and most delicate nature. By their intervention contending princes dispute their claims of empire. Upon them depend divines, statesmen, lawyers and physicians; all professions, all trades; and with their assistance the beggar asks his alms. An influence more extensive, more universal, is hardly to be imagined: so many and so great are the purposes answered by your petitioners: a society,

ciety, that does more honour to the species, than all others put together.

BUT the utility and importance of your petitioners have, for their foundation, a perfect harmony and good understanding among themselves; inasmuch as the least dissention may prove of fatal consequence: for should any one of them withdraw his assistance from the rest, their activity, which qualifies them for all employments, would in a moment cease, and they must become, in the strictest sense of the words, dead letters.

NEVERTHELESS so it is, that certain persons, either through folly or perverseness, have opened a door to discord, an enemy ever upon the watch, and that must inevitably prevail, if a speedy and effectual stop be not put to a practice, which has for many years had its favourers in the greatest and most polite assembly of this metropolis. A thousand witnesses might be produced to prove, that at every Ridotto, part of the company is seated at a round table, which has a hollow moveable circle in the middle, with a declivity from the center, and its circumference divided into little separate cavities or cells, distinguished by the letters
E and

E and O, placed over them alternately: the hollow circle is put in motion, and a small ivory ball thrown upon it in a contrary direction; after several turns, the inclination of the surface carries the ball down towards the cavities prepared for its reception, in one of which, having rebounded several times, it at last rests, and the parties concerned in this interesting event succeed or fail, as they chance to have chosen, or not, the letter under which the ball happens to settle.

Now, fir, the grievance complained of by your petitioners is, that the game should be wholly and absolutely governed by E and O, and derive its name from those letters alone. All impartial judges will acknowledge the preference to be an undue one, since all your petitioners are equally qualified for the service, ready to undertake it, and have spirit enough to claim a share in the honour.

THERE is indeed, and there must of necessity be, a precedence in the order of the alphabet; but this has never yet been understood to denote any superior excellence; and granting it did, the two associates in power cannot avail themselves of that circumstance,
because

because all who know their letters, and are capable of counting not quite twenty, will find the former of them in the fifth, and the latter in the fourteenth place. Like other favourites therefore they have been advanced, not for their merit, but altogether from caprice.

THE disadvantages of this practice are evident to all. The few who are well established in reading, by a perpetual and close attention to E and O only, may entirely forget your petitioners, and by that means lose all the advantages of a learned education. As to the many, who have every thing to learn, the danger is, that not one of them will be prevailed on to go a step beyond O, which must absolutely defeat those expectations which the public may have formed from the rising generation.

THE remedy for these evils is however easy and certain: it is only to have the letters over the cavities made to slide on and off, and to provide a complete alphabet of them; then, beginning with A and B, let them govern for a certain time; next C and D are to preside, and in this manner a regular rotation is

to take place. The use of this contrivance must be obvious to every body, as a thousand things might be taught in this way, which it would be hopeless to attempt in any other whatsoever.

YOUR petitioners submitting the premises to your consideration, humbly pray such relief, as to your great wisdom shall seem meet.

A.	B.
C.	D.
F.	G.
H.	I.
K.	L.
M.	N.
P.	Q.
R.	S.
T.	U.
W.	X.
Y.	Z.

NUMB.



NUMB. 181. THURSDAY, *June 17, 1756.*

IT has been remarked by certain wise philosophers, that men are strangely apt to err in their notions of good and evil, virtue and vice. They tell us that we have no adequate idea of those words, but are continually mistaking and confounding them, calling good evil, and evil good, virtue vice, and vice virtue. One of these philosophers has very lately discovered that the contentions, misfortunes and miseries of mankind are wholly owing to government and laws, and that a state of anarchy and confusion, where the weak are at the mercy of the strong, and the simple of the cunning, is the only state of concord, security and happiness.

ANOTHER of these philosophers, who seems rather enclined to new-model governments than totally to subvert them, has proved to the satisfaction of multitudes, that fraud, luxury, corruption, and all the catalogue of vices

vices (as men are mistakenl pleased to call them) are the onl means to make a community great, flourishing and happy; and on the contrar, that frugality, temperance, continence and the like, which are vulgarl termed virtues, tend finally to its destruction.

FOR my own part, I was not philosopher enough in my youth to investigate these deep truths; and now I am old, I find myself so bigotted to former opinions, as not easil to perceive that rapes, murders and adulteries are beneficial to societ, or that a state of nature is better calculated for the preservation of property, or the ease, peace and happiness of mankind, than government and laws. But lest it should be said of me, that from the peevishness and obstinac of age, I am shutting my eyes against the light, I will freel confess that I am latel become a convert to some other opinions, which I formerl held in equal disesteem. I had long accustomed myself to look on Gaming as a vice; and as such I have frequentl treated it in the course of these papers: but I am now fulll convinced of my error, and that I ought to have considered it as a national virtue, and productive of

of more advantages to society than any other whatsoever. That my readers may entertain the same opinion, I shall here present them with a letter which I have lately received from a very ingenious correspondent, whose reasoning upon this subject is too conclusive to be opposed.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I HOPE you will not think it inconsistent with the manner in which you have proposed to conduct your paper, to lay before the public the complaints of your correspondents, relating to that part of the world you more immediately preside over; especially as you have declared your design to interpose, whenever the critical emergencies of your country shall require your assistance.

You, who are acquainted with public proceedings, must have taken notice of the additional taxes that have been laid upon cards and dice; by which it is justly apprehended, that the profits arising from the honourable occupations dependent thereon, will be greatly impeded. Whatever satisfaction gloomy
and

and splenetic minds, (always disposed to anticipate the ruin of the kingdom) may express, I assure you I cannot help considering this affair with the most painful concern; and I doubt not my reasons will be equally convincing to you.

AT a time when the perfidious enemies of our country have rendered all foreign trade precarious and uncertain, to what happier resources can we fly than the commerce of game? By what means is the circulation of money, the life and spirit of trade, more speedily promoted? What other business can boast of such large returns? and (with honour be it mentioned) what debts in any other kind of commerce are more punctually discharged? How strongly do the various fluctuations of fortune inculcate fortitude, courage, resignation, and a noble contempt of death! virtues for which the proficients in this science have been greatly renowned. What better method could be found out for humbling the grandeur, and diminishing the over-grown revenues of our nobility and gentry, than by blending their manners and their fortunes with the lowest of their fellow creatures? Nor is it the least

praise

praise of this profession, that the fair sex are qualified to make a figure in it, and to exert those striking talents which we seem so solicitous to exclude from many of the arts of life. By a constant application to gaming, they gradually wear off the killing brightness of those eyes, and the overpowering splendour of those charms, which would otherwise be destructive to many thousands of mankind. Hence they are taught kindness and condescension, and rendered graciously accessible to the company and caresses of every adoring swain. I might observe farther, that while the merchant and tradesman are contracting a narrow avaricious turn of mind, a haughty contempt, and a supercilious air, the gallant spirits who have espoused this genteel commerce, acquire an engaging freedom of conversation, a boundless generosity of nature, and an inimitable politeness of manners.

If the political advantages of gaming are demanded of me, I answer, that it secures our money in the kingdom, and keeps it in perpetual circulation. Can there be a more convincing demonstration of the dangerous consequences of foreign trade, than that the
riches

riches of the kingdom are exhausted by it, and the national current wealth, according to the opinion of some wise calculators, reduced from forty millions to twelve? not to mention the importation of the various follies, fashions and poisons, which expose, infatuate and destroy so many of our deluded countrymen. Can any other argument be necessary to procure an unlimited indulgence to a commerce, from whence so many advantages spring, and which is so evidently conducive to the public good?

If it should be objected, that many persons of plentiful incomes are reduced to poverty by gaming, I should be glad to know what employments in life are totally exempted from misfortune, and how many bankrupts are recorded in our public chronicles, who despairing to rise in the world by the vulgar method of trade, have had recourse to this genteel profession, and quickly retrieved their fortunes.

It would be easy to mention many more circumstances in praise of so noble a commerce, if it was in the least necessary: I doubt not of the concurrence of all men of genius and spirit in these my sentiments; and I hope the legis-

lature will henceforward look with favour on an art, in which the politeness, the morals, the constitution and the riches of this kingdom are so greatly concerned; and instead of discouraging it with severe taxes, and heavy burthens, will contribute every thing to its advancement. To this end I cannot present you with a better proposal, than “that all those
 “who can bring sufficient proof of their having lost from one thousand to one hundred
 “thousand pounds, shall be maintained at
 “the public expence, and rewarded for their
 “patriotism, in sacrificing their fortune so disinterestedly for the good of their country.”

If you shall please to communicate these thoughts to the public, and recommend them by some arguments of your own, I shall think you that friend of the world you pretend to be, and may possibly give you some future advices, which may not be unworthy your notice,

I am,

SIR,

Your sincere friend

and hearty admirer,

JACK LOVEBOX.

NUMB.



NUMB. 182. THURSDAY, *June 24, 1756.*

A Very facetious friend of mine was observing the other day, that he could always discover with great certainty the shape, height and complexion of any man's wife in company, by calling for his toast. If he gives you a lean woman, depend upon it, says he, his wife is a fat one; or if he drinks his bumper to a beauty of fine height and complexion, you may safely conclude that the lady at home is little and swarthy, and so on: for, continues he, I have ever found it to be true, that when a man has been married a full half year, he will be the constant admirer of all other women, in proportion as they differ from his own wife.

I WISH with all my heart there was no colour of truth in this remark; but I am afraid that the wives of the generality of men, like their other possessions, are apt to pall a little upon their hands. Fine fortunes, fine houses, fine gardens and fine equipages, bring but

little enjoyment to their owners; insomuch that we are every day breaking the tenth commandment, by *coveting our neighbour's house, our neighbour's wife, or any thing that is our neighbour's.*

WHENCE this perverseness of mankind arises, I will not take upon me to determine. My friend, who never thinks enough to perplex himself, lays the fault upon human nature. He asserts that men are in every respect just what they were intended to be, and that we have the same reason to be angry with a bear for not being a man, as with a man for having the imperfections of one.

THAT we are frail by nature is too certain a truth; but the comfort is, that He who made us so does not expect perfection from us, and will pardon errors that do not proceed from wilful corruption, and obstinate disobedience.

THERE is a humorous fable of the ancients upon the general frailty of mankind, which as I have never seen in English, I have ventured to modernize and translate for the entertainment of my readers.

“JUPITER, after he had seized the throne
“ of

“ of Saturn, conquered the Titans, and made
 “ the universe his own, left the government
 “ of this lower world, and the affairs of man-
 “ kind, to the inferior deities. Each had his
 “ separate votaries, and no one was to inter-
 “ fere in the department of another. Mars
 “ was captain general of the soldiery of all
 “ nations; Neptune was lord high admiral;
 “ Bacchus presided over clubs and festivals,
 “ Mercury over trade, Apollo over wit and
 “ phyfic, Minerva over learning, Venus and
 “ the Graces over beauty, Juno over mar-
 “ riage, Diana over chastity, and so on.

“ In the first ages of the world the affairs
 “ of men seemed to be in a very flourishing
 “ condition; but the face of things began gra-
 “ dually to change, till at last a general depravi-
 “ ty prevailed over the face of the whole earth.
 “ The gods, finding themselves unequal to
 “ the task imposed upon them, and angry
 “ with mankind, petitioned Jupiter to take
 “ the government of them into his own
 “ hands; but he frowned at their request,
 “ commanding them to proceed as they had
 “ begun, and leave the consequences to him-
 “ self. The deities, perplexed at their re-

“ pulse, convened a council among them-
 “ selves, in which it was agreed that they
 “ should draw up a second petition to Jupiter,
 “ that for the better understanding the nature
 “ of mankind, they should have leave to pay
 “ a visit to the world, and to take upon them
 “ for a time the several natures of their vota-
 “ ries. Jupiter laughed, and consented to their
 “ petition, but with this particular limitation,
 “ that they should be entirely divested of su-
 “ pernatural powers, and that as they were
 “ to personate mortals, they should be subject
 “ to their frailties.

“ THE deities consented to the will of Ju-
 “ piter, and having deliberated on the several
 “ parts they were to act, made their descent
 “ upon the earth. Mars bought himself a
 “ pair of colours in the guards, and being a
 “ gay handsome young fellow, and a great fa-
 “ vourite of the ladies, was quickly ad-
 “ vanced to the command of a company.
 “ His equipage was the most splendid that
 “ could be imagined; he dressed, danced,
 “ gamed and swore to the utmost perfection;
 “ he knocked down watchmen and constables,
 “ drew his sword upon chairmen and waiters,
 “ laughed

“ laughed at the parsons, bilked whores and
 “ hackney-coachmen, cheated taylors and
 “ lace-men, stormed towns at every tavern,
 “ and saluted at the head of his company with
 “ inimitable grace. But having unfortunate-
 “ ly seduced the wife of his friend, and being
 “ called out on the occasion, he chose to de-
 “ cline fighting, and was broke for cowar-
 “ dice.

“ NEPTUNE was a hardy rough tar, and
 “ got early the command of a sixty-gun ship.
 “ He attacked the trade of the enemy with
 “ great intrepidity, and took prizes of immense
 “ value. His prudence was equal to his cou-
 “ rage; inasmuch as his ship was never known
 “ to suffer by the enemy’s shot, or a man to
 “ die on board her of a violent death. But
 “ as Neptune was now no more than a
 “ man, and therefore liable to error, he had
 “ the misfortune to mistake his admiral’s sig-
 “ nal to attack, for a signal to sheer off, and
 “ happening to have no interest at court, was
 “ disabled from service, and sent to live upon
 “ his fortune.

“ BACCHUS was a country squire, and a
 “ great sportsman; he got drunk every day,

“ and debauched all the wives and daughters
 “ of his tenants and neighbours; till being
 “ reduced by his extravagance, and driven to
 “ various shifts, he at last drew beer in a
 “ night-cellar to hackney-coachmen and
 “ street-walkers.

“ MERCURY was a linen-draper in the
 “ city, and acquired a plentiful fortune by be-
 “ ing three times a bankrupt; but happening
 “ to be discovered in a fourth attempt, he was
 “ stript of all his wealth, and very narrowly
 “ escaped hanging. He was afterwards cap-
 “ tain of a gang of thieves, and at last recalled
 “ to heaven from the condemned hold in New-
 “ gate.

“ APOLLO commenced mortal in the charac-
 “ ter of a physician, and so peopled the shades
 “ of Pluto with souls, that the boat of Charon
 “ became crazy by their weight. Jupiter
 “ grew incensed at his murders, and com-
 “ manded him to begin the world again in a
 “ more innocent calling. Apollo obeyed, and
 “ became a wit. He composed loose sonnets
 “ and plays; he libelled the good, flattered
 “ the bad, blasphemed the gods, and was pa-
 “ tronized by the great : but unhappily stand-
 “ ing

“ing in need of their assistance, they with-
 “drew their favours, and left him to starve in
 “a garret on the bounty of the booksellers.

“MINERVA was a lady of fine parts and
 “learning, but a great flattern. She never
 “stuck a pin in her clothes, nor changed
 “them till they wore out. Her linen was
 “stained with ink, her hair uncombed, her
 “petticoats falling off, her stockings full of
 “holes, and her feet slip-shod. She talked in
 “syllogisms, wrote in heroics, and married
 “her footman.

“VENUS, who while a goddess, had always
 “a hankering after mortal flesh and blood,
 “was highly pleased with this descent upon
 “earth. She assumed the form of a beauti-
 “ful girl of fourteen, took lodgings in Co-
 “vent-garden, and dealt out her favours li-
 “berally to all visitors. Her state of morta-
 “lity was so suited to her inclinations, that
 “heaven and the goddess were never thought
 “of, till the loss of her nose made her sigh
 “for immortality.

“DIANA was a great prude all day, but
 “had her Endymions by moon-light. It is
 “reported of her that she was eleven times

“brought to bed, without being once able to
“give the least probable guess at the father of
“the child.

“OF JUNO it is only said, that she scolded
“seven husbands to death; and of the Graces,
“that they were exceeding neat girls till they
“married, and fluts afterwards.

“HAVING staid the limited time upon
“earth, they were all summoned to heaven,
“in their human forms and habits, to make
“their appearance before the throne of Jupiter.
“Mars and Neptune made a tolerable
“figure, but looked a little shy. Bacchus had
“a blue apron on, and a string of pewter pots
“thrown across his shoulder. Mercury appeared
“fettered and hand-cuffed; he had a
“woollen cap upon his head, a nosegay in his
“hand, and a halter about his neck. Apollo
“was full-drest in a suit of rusty black, a tyewig,
“a silver-hilted sword, roll-up stockings,
“deep ruffles, but no shirt: his features were
“begrimed with snuff, and his mouth crammed
“with tobacco. As Minerva approached to
“make her curt’sy, Jupiter held his nose, and
“beckoned her to keep aloof, telling her that
“for the future he would have no learned ladies
“dies

“ dies upon earth. Venus held her fan before
 “ her face, till Jupiter commanded her to un-
 “ cover. He then enquired after her nose,
 “ and asked if the gin she had drank that
 “ morning was right Holland’s. Diana com-
 “ plained much of a dropfy; upon which Ju-
 “ piter laughed, and promised to send Lucina
 “ to cure her, adding that he hoped she had
 “ had good times. Juno looked angry at not
 “ being first taken notice of, which upon Ju-
 “ piter’s observing, he gave her a gracious
 “ nod, and assured her that every one of her
 “ husbands was at quiet in Elyzium. The
 “ Graces would have apologized for their
 “ dishabille, but Jupiter prevented them, and
 “ told them with a smile that he would have
 “ no marriages in heaven. He then restored
 “ them all to their divinities, and after ridicul-
 “ ing and rebuking them for their murmur-
 “ ings and curiosity, dismissed them to their
 “ several charges, telling them that they were
 “ now enabled to make allowances for the
 “ frailties and imperfections of human nature,
 “ having experienced in their own persons,
 “ that he had peopled the world with MEN,
 “ and not GODS.

NUMB.



NUMB. 183. THURSDAY, *July* 1, 1756.

IT was with great satisfaction that I attended to the declaration of war against France, having for above a twelve-month past been sensibly hurt in my own private property by the people of that nation. Yet injured as I was, I concealed my resentment while there was the least expectation of peace, that it might not be said of me, I had contributed, by any complaints of my own, to the involving my country in a hazardous and expensive war.

EVERYBODY knows, that till within these two years, or thereabouts, it was a general fashion for the ladies to wear hair upon their heads; and I had piqued myself not a little on the thoughts that these my papers had been of considerable service towards curling the said hair. I had indeed long ago discovered, that very few ladies of condition could spare time and attention enough from the various avocations

cations of dress, visiting, assemblies, plays, opera's, Ranelagh and Vauxhall, to read over a paper that contained no less than six pages in folio; but as the demand for the WORLD was still very considerable, I contented myself with knowing that I was every week adorning their heads, though I could not be permitted to improve their understandings; and it was a particular pleasure to me in all public assemblies, to think that the finest faces there were indebted to the goodness of my paper for setting them off. So long as the fashion of hair continued (and to say truth, I never so much as dreamt that it was so soon to change) I depended on the custom of the fair and polite; but by the instigation of French hair-cutters, whom the ministers of their monarch have sent to this metropolis in pure spite to me, the ladies have been prevailed on to cut their hair close to their temples, to the great diminution of the sale of these papers.

It was formerly a very agreeable amusement to me to look in at Mr. Doddsley's on a Thursday morning, and observe the great demand for these my lucubrations; but though the same demand continues among the men, I have frequently

quently the mortification of hearing a smart footman delivering a message in the shop, “ that his lady desires Mr. Doddsley will send “ her in no more WORLDS, for that she “ has cut off her hair, and shall have no occasion for them any longer.”

NOBODY will, I believe, make the least doubt that my principal view in this work was to amend the morals and improve the understandings of my fellow-subjects; but I will honestly confess, that ever since the commencement of it, I have entertained some distant hopes of laying up a fortune sufficient to support me in my old age; and as money is at so low an interest, I intended making a small purchase in some retired and pleasant part of England, that I might have devoted my labours to the cultivation of land, after having weeded men’s minds of whatever choaked the growth of virtue and good manners. This I do not yet despair of effecting, as I am not without hopes, that while we are at open war with France, the ladies will conceive such a dislike to the fashions of their enemies, as to let their hair grow again. If this cannot speedily be brought about, I must
be

be forced to apply to the ministers for some lucrative employment, in return for that indulgence and complaisance which I have at all times shewn them. It is impossible for me to conceive that my merits have been overlooked, though they have been hitherto unrewarded; and I make no kind of doubt that I need only present myself at their levees, to be asked what post I would chuse. They do not want to be assured that I am as willing as able to assist them in all emergencies; or, which is still better, to vindicate their conduct against all opposers, to stifle clamours in their birth, to convert fears to hopes, complaints to approbation, and faction to concord.

BUT as I do not at present recollect any particular post of honour and profit that would better suit me than another, and knowing that the abusers of an administration are first to be provided for, I am willing to accept of a handsome sum of money, till something else may be done; or if a seat in parliament, with a proper qualification, be thought necessary for me, I entirely acquiesce, as my eloquence in the house must be of signal service in all critical conjunctures. It would also be perfectly

fectly agreeable to me if the government were to take off weekly twenty or thirty thousand of my papers, and circulate them among their friends; or if they object to such an expence, and should discover no inclination to oblige me in any of the particulars abovementioned, I humbly intreat, that in lieu of the depredations made upon me by the French hair-cutters, and in consideration of my firm attachments to his Majesty's family and government, orders be immediately issued from the lord Steward's office, the board of Green-cloth, or elsewhere, that henceforward all the tarts, pyes, pastry, and confectionary of any kind whatsoever, appertaining to his Majesty's household, be constantly baked upon these papers. This would be making me sufficient amends, and greatly encourage me to continue this useful work till a perfect library might be made of it, which otherwise must have an end before an hundred volumes can be completed.

THAT the ministry may entertain just notions of the efficacy of my good word, I shall here present them with some few of those offers,

fers, which are almost daily made me by private persons.

A LADY who has lately opened a new bagnio in Covent-garden, assures me in a letter, that if I will do her the favour to recommend her in the WORLD, I shall not only have the run of her house, but every one of her young ladies shall be obliged to take in my paper as long as it lasts. A grocer in the Strand has sent me a pound of his best tea, and promises to wrap up every ounce he sells, as also all his sugars and spices, in these papers, if I will honour him so far as to make mention of him in any one of them. He adds in a post-script, that his wife and five daughters, who do a great deal of work, make all their thread-papers of WORLDS.

BUT a more material offer still, and which I have therefore reserved for the last, is contained in the following letter.

TO ADAM FITZ-ADAM.

ESTEEMED FRIEND,

THIS is to acquaint thee that we are makers
of pins on the bridge called London bridge,
and

and that we have each of us given a considerable portion of money for the good-will of the habitations wherein we make abode : but by an act of the legislature lately passed, the said habitations are speedily to be pulled down, and their dwellers to be forced to remove to other abodes. If thou art in the least acquainted with traffic, thou canst not be ignorant of the benefits that accrue from an old established shop, in a street where the principal dealers in any particular commodity are known to dwell ; inasmuch as when thou wantest a silken garment for thy wife, thou wouldst repair to the habitations of Round court or Ludgate hill ; or if thy linen was rent, thou wouldst doubtless resort to Cheapside or Cornhill : in like manner, if thy help-mate or thy maidens wanted pins, thou wouldst not fail, if thou wert wise, to take thy walk to London bridge. But by the act above-named, thy friends are exiled from their dwellings, and compelled to sojourn in a strange street, where even their names are unknown. We therefore request it of thee, if the rulers of the land behold thee with regard, that thou wilt apply thyself speedily to obtain a repeal of
this

this act; wherein if thou succeedest, we will buy up thy weekly labours in reams, and stick all our pins therein, so that thy name shall be known far and wide, and thy days prosperous in the land.

If thou art a well-wisher to thyself, thou wilt use thy best endeavours for the service of

Thy friends,

EPHRAIM MINNIKIN,

MALACHY SHORTWHITE,

OBADIAH MIDLING,

HEZEKIAH LONGPIN,

&c. &c.

AFTER duly deliberating upon this proposal, I am inclined to trouble the government no farther at present than to request the repeal of this act, which if they are so kind as to grant me, my papers will again find their way to the dressing-rooms of the ladies, in spite of the intrigues of France, and her emissaries the hair-cutters.



NUMB. 184. THURSDAY, *July 8*, 1756.

I WAS always particularly pleased with that scene in the first part of *Harry the fourth*, where the humourous sir John Falstaff, after upbraiding the prince with being the corruptor of his morals, and resolving on amendment, forms a very reasonable wish “to know “where a commodity of good names may be “bought.” It happens indeed a little unfortunately, that he immediately relapses into his old courses, and enters into a scheme for a robbery that night, which he endeavours to justify by calling it his TRADE: “Why, Hal, “says he, ’tis my VOCATION, Hal: ’tis no “SIN for a man to LABOUR in his VOCATION.”

As often as this passage has occurred to me, I could not help thinking that if we were to look narrowly into the conduct of mankind, we should find the fat knight’s excuse to have a more general influence than is commonly imagined. It should seem as if there were certain

certain degrees of dishonesty, which were allowable, and that most occupations have an acknowledged latitude in one or more particulars, where men may be rogues with impunity, and almost without blame.

It will be no difficult task to illustrate the truth of this observation, by scrutinizing into the conduct of men of all ranks, orders and professions. This shall be the subject of to-day's paper; and I shall begin, where it is always good-manners to begin, with my betters and superiors.

THE tyrant, who to gratify his ambition, depopulates whole nations, and sacrifices the lives of millions of his subjects to his insatiable desire of conquest, is a GLORIOUS prince. DESTRUCTION is his TRADE, and he is only LABOURING in his VOCATION.

THE statesman, who spreads corruption over a country, and enslaves the people to enrich himself, or aggrandize his master, is an ABLE minister; OPPRESSION is his CALLING, and it is no sin in him to LABOUR in his VOCATION.

THE patriot, who opposes the measures of the statesman; who rails at corruption in the house,

house, and bawls till morning for his poor bleeding country, may, if admitted to a post, adopt the principles he abhorred, and pursue the measures he condemned: such a one is a **TRADER** in **POWER**, and only **LABOURING** in his **VOCATION**.

THE condescending patron, who fond of followers and dependents, deals out his smiles to all about him, and buys flattery with promises; who shakes the needy wit by the hand, and assures him of his protection one hour, and forgets that he has ever seen him the next, is a **GREAT MAN**: **DECEIT** is his **VOCATION**.

THE man in office, whose perquisites are wrung from the poor pittance of the miserable, and who enriches himself by pillaging the widow and the orphan, receives no more than his **ACCUSTOMED DUES**, and is only **LABOURING** in his **VOCATION**.

THE divine, who subscribes to articles that he does not believe; who neglects practice for profession, and God for his Grace; who bribes a mistress, or sacrifices a sister for preferment; who preaches faith without works, and damns all who differ from him, may be

an orthodox divine, and only LABOURING in his VOCATION.

THE lawyer, who makes truth falshood, and falshood truth; who pleads the cause of the oppressor against the innocent, and brings ruin upon the wretched, is a man of eminence in the world, and the companion of honest men. LYING is his TRADE, and he is only LABOURING in his VOCATION.

THE physician, who visits you three times a day in a case that he knows to be incurable; who denies his assistance to the poor, and writes more for the apothecary than the patient, is an HONEST physician, and only LABOURING in his VOCATION.

THE fine lady of fashion, who piques herself upon her virtue, perhaps a little too much; who attends the sermon every sunday, and prayers every week-day; and who if she flanders her best friends, does it only to reform them, may innocently indulge herself in a little CHEATING at CARDS; she has made it her VOCATION.

THE tradesman, who assures you upon his honest word that he will deal justly with you; yet sells you his worst commodities at the highest

highest price, and exults at over-reaching you, is a GOOD MAN, and only LABOURING in his VOCATION.

THE infidel, who fond of an evil fame, would rob you of a religion that inculcates virtue, and insures happiness as its reward; who laughs at an hereafter, and takes from you the only expectation that can make life endurable, is a DEALER in TRUTH, and only LABOURING in his VOCATION.

THE author, who to insure a sale to his works, throws out his slander against the good, and poisons the young and virtuous by tales of wantonness and indecency, is a WRITER of SPIRIT, and only LABOURING in his VOCATION.

To take characters in the gross, the gamester, who cheats you at play; the man of pleasure, who corrupts the chastity of your wife; the friend, who tricks you in a horse; the steward, who defrauds you in his accounts; the butler, who robs you of your wine; the footman, who steals your linen; the housekeeper, who overcharges you in her bills; the gardener, who sends your fruit to market; the groom, who starves your horses

to put their allowance in his pocket; in short, the whole train of servants, who impose upon you in the several articles entrusted to their care, are only receiving their **LAWFUL PERQUISITES**, and **LABOURING** in their **VOCATIONS**.

I KNOW but of one set of men, who ought commonly to be excepted in this general charge; and those are the projectors. The schemes of all such gentlemen are usually too romantic to impose upon the credulity of the world; and not being able to plunder their employers, they are **LABOURING** in their **VOCATIONS** to cheat only themselves.

I WOULD not be misunderstood upon this occasion, as if I meant to advise all people to be honest, and to do as they would be done by in their several vocations: far be it from me to intend any such thing; I am as well assured as they are that it would not answer their purposes. The tyrant would have no glory without conquests; his ministers no followers without bribes; the patriot no place without opposition; the patron no flatterers without promising; the man in office no perquisites without fraud; the divine no pluralities without

time-serving; the lawyer no clients without lying: the physician no practice without apothecaries; the tradesman no country-house without exacting; the fine lady no routs without cheating; the infidel no fame without proselytes, and the author no dinner without slander and wantonness. The gamester would be undone; the man of pleasure inactive; the gentleman-jockey would sell his horse at half-price; and the steward, the butler, the footman, the house-keeper, the gardener, the groom, and the whole train of servants lose their necessary perquisites.

THE old maxim, that "honesty is the best policy," has been long ago exploded: but I am firmly of opinion, that the APPEARANCE of it might, if well put on, promote a man's interest, though the REALITY must destroy it. I would therefore recommend it to persons in all vocations (if it be but by way of trial, and for the novelty of the thing) to put on now and then the APPEARANCE of a little honesty. Most men have a natural dislike to be cheated with their eyes open; and though it is the fashion of the times to wear no concealment, yet to deceive behind the mask of integrity, has been deem-

ed the most effectual method. To further this end, the APPEARANCE of a small portion of RELIGION would not be amiss; but I would by no means have this matter overdone, as it commonly is. Going to prayers every day, or singing psalms on a Sunday in a room next the street, may look a little suspicious, and set the neighbours upon the watch: nor would I advise that a tradesman should stand at the shop-door with a prayer-book in his hand, or that a lawyer should carry the Whole Duty of Man in his bag to Westminster-hall, and read it in court as often as he sits down: there are other methods that may answer the purpose of cheating much better. A yea and nay conversation, interrupted with a few sighs and groans for the iniquities of the wicked, loud responses at church, and long graces at meals, with here and there a godly book lying in the window, or in places most in sight, will be of singular utility; and farther than this I would by no means advise.

To all those gentlemen and ladies who follow no vocations, and who have therefore no immediate interest in cheating, I would recommend the PRACTICE of honesty before the APPEARANCE of it. As such persons stand

in no need of a cloak, I shall say nothing to them of religion, only that the REALITY of it might be useful to them in afflictions, or if ever they should take it into their heads that they must one day die, it might possibly alleviate the bitterness of so uncommon a thought. To do as they would be done by, would in all probability render them happier in themselves, and lead them to the enjoyment of new pleasures in the happiness of others.



NUMB. 185. THURSDAY, *July* 15, 1756.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

MY case is a little singular, and therefore I hope you will let it appear in your paper. I should scarcely have attempted to make such a request, had not I very strictly looked over all the works of your predecessors, the Tatlers, Spectators and Guardians, without a possibility of finding a parallel to my unhappy situation.

I AM

I AM not *henpecked*; I am not *grimalkined*; I have no Mrs. *Freeman* with her *Italian airs*; but I have a wife more troublesome than all three, by a certain ridiculous and unnecessary devotion that she pays to her father, amounting almost to idolatry. When I first married her, from that specious kind of weakness which meets with encouragement and applause, only because it is called good-nature, I permitted her to do whatever she pleased: but when I thought it requisite to pull in the rein, I found that her having the bit in her teeth, rendered the strength of my curb of no manner of use to me. Whenever I attempted to draw her in a little, she tossed up her head, snorted, pranced, and gave her self such airs, that unless I let her carry me where she pleased, my limbs, if not my life, were in danger. The love of power is inherent in the disposition of womankind: and I do not pretend that her vapours, hysterics, low-spirits, or whatever else the learned are pleased to call them, are not equalled by thousands of married women in these melancholy kingdoms: but the FATHER, the FATHER is the point which distinguishes me from the rest of my brethren.

THIS old fellow is of a most capricious, unequal temper, and, like the satyr in the fable, blows hot and cold in the same breath. Sometimes he is very fond of me and my friends, and at other times he will not suffer us to look at him. In whatever mood the old gentleman thinks fit to appear, in the same mood madam his daughter dispenses her pouts and frowns, or her smiles and good-humour. Whatever shape old PROTEUS puts on, CABELLA, his daughter, puts on the same. I call him PROTEUS, because though I have known him many years, I have never known him a week together in the same form. He is vapourish; so is his daughter: he is a quack; so is his daughter: one day he is an œconomist, even to the greatest degree of avarice; the daughter also has her days of frugality and improper thrift. Sometimes he is profuse, and a violent squanderer: after those fits my purse is sure to suffer most cruelly. Sometimes he is proud, sometimes he is humble; his daughter follows him closely in each of the two extremes. In short, sir, both father and daughter practise more changes than Harlequin in the Emperor of the Moon. Judge then

then what a figure a husband must make, who is indispensably obliged to conform with all these metamorphoses.

LAST summer, though a cold one, PROTEUS took it into his head to dine in his cellar: and as soon as we arrived at my country-house, our cellar also was immediately announced to be our eating parlour. My neighbours tried the experiment once, in hopes perhaps of being made fuddled, contrary to my usual custom; but that not being the case, they never offered to return again; no, not even the curate of the parish, who declared he would drink Bumpers in my cellar as long as I pleased, but he could not eat there and sip thimble-fulls, though he were sure to dine every day on a patty, or a haunch of venison. So that my wife and I, for three months together, dined like king Pharaoh, amidst frogs and darkness: nor had we any other companions than the reptiles that crawled out of the walls, as imagining their territories invaded. But my wife endured every inconvenience with amazing patience, because she had heard her father say, that this was the best method

to drink iced liquors, without being at the expence of an ice-house.

LAST winter, I was still put to greater hardships. PROTEUS, who some time ago travelled abroad, neither for health nor improvement, but merely in search of that philosopher's stone called TASTE, declared that in Italy no nobleman's house had a chimney in any room except the kitchen; and he added, that as it was an example which he resolved to follow, he hoped it might be so relishable to his friends, that they would cut off that excessive dear article of firing, and expend their coal-money in buildings, statues, or lakes. The word was no sooner given, than my wife bricked up every chimney, except the kitchen chimney, in my house; and in January (though we were permitted to have little earthen stoves in our chambers) the cold was so intense, that my little boy Tommy died of the whooping-cough, and I myself caught an ague, which lasted four months, and brought upon me an apothecary's bill, amounting to ninety pounds for drugs, which were indeed much fuller of TASTE than I desired.

THE

THE furniture of my house, and the shape of my gardens, have been changed at least ten times over; yet if you were to judge, Mr. Fitz-Adam, from the constant conversation of my wife and her father, you would pronounce them the best œconomists in Europe: and so they are, in small beer, oil, and vinegar.

THOUGH I always avoid excess of drinking, when at home (my father-in-law, since my marriage, having been remarkably sober) yet it is my misfortune, and I confess it is a fault, to go now and then to the tavern, and there to exceed the strict limits of sobriety. It is impossible, among jovial companions, not to indulge a vein of gaiety; the effect of which is, that at night I am apt to stagger towards the nuptial bed a little too heavily loaded with liquor. The night is snored away in oblivion; but oh! when the morning approaches, and I awake and open my eyes, what a face of anger do I behold! and what dreadful peals of conjugal thunder do I hear? Those peals commonly end with a louder clap than ordinary, in words to this purpose.

“ Ah! Mr. Tamedeer, Mr. Tamedeer, is this

“ the reward for all my love and kindness? Have
 “ I quitted my dear father for the embraces of
 “ a sot? When was that good old man ever
 “ seen disguised in liquor?” To this I might
 reply, if I dared to make an answer, that in-
 deed he is so often disguised *out* of liquor, he
 ought never to be disguised *in* it : and I might
 also add, that he is most injuriously slandered,
 if some five-and-twenty years since, he did not
 drink, smoke, and go through the et cætera as
 well ^{as} the best of us.

IF I offend or rebel in any one point, and
 indeed I offend and rebel in very few, my wife
 immediately applies to my father-in-law, and
 I am ordered to alter my conduct, and to sub-
 mit properly to judgments far superior to my
 own. Thus is my case (my wife’s virtue al-
 ways excepted) far more deplorable than Bar-
 naby Rattle’s in the play ; nor have I the
 comfort appendant to sir John Enville, Knt.
 in being married to a woman of quality. That
 circumstance at least might have proved an in-
 gredient to satisfy my pride.

THIS uneasy situation, which I have de-
 scribed with exact truth, has occasioned me to
 ruminate continually upon some method of
 relief.

relief. None occurs to me, except a formal divorce. You will ask what cause can be alledged? since there is not the least shadow of proof either of adultery, ill-usage, or any other matrimonial misdemeanor. True. But cannot I prove a prior marriage? Was not she married to her father, to all outward appearance, long before she went with me to the altar? Does not that marriage evidently continue, without any other breach than having a second husband in points where the first husband does not care to meddle? Is she not more obedient to her first husband than her second? Has she fulfilled, as she ought, her vow of matrimony to me? Whom does she obey? not me, but her father. Whom does she honour? not me, but her father. May not I hope therefore to be relieved in any judicial or ecclesiastical court in England?

YOUR opinion fully stated upon this case would encourage me to go on, or discourage me from proceeding. If I cannot be relieved by law or equity, I will try to summon up courage to fight my father-in-law. I know he is a coward, but then I am under apprehensions that the jade has discovered to him
that

that I am a greater coward than himself. At all events, Mr. Fitz-Adam, let me have your advice, because I am

Your constant reader,

and admirer,

THOMAS TAMEDEER.



NUMB. 186. THURSDAY, July 22, 1756.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I AM the same clergyman who troubled you with an account of his misfortunes in your paper Numb. XXXI, and am indebted to your kind publication of that letter for the ease and happiness, which, with only one single interruption, I have enjoyed ever since. My uncommon, and I hope I may say, unmerited distresses, recommended me to the notice of a noble lord, who called to see me at my lodgings, brought me home to his lordship's own house, and honoured me so far as to make me his domestic chaplain. His lordship's regard for me was so truly sincere, that he
married

married me soon after to my lady's woman, a young person of admirable beauty and virtue, and a great favourite of my lord, because, as his lordship used often to tell me, she was a clergyman's daughter, and for what reason he knew not, extremely hated by his lady. But my good fortune did not end here: his lordship, whose nature it is never to be tired with doing good, was so very obliging as to take us a little house, ready furnished, in a retired and pleasant part of the town, paying the rent of it himself, and making us considerable presents from time to time: he was also so very condescending as to spend two or three evenings in a week with us, and frequently to take my wife with him in the chariot for an afternoon's airing, as she had the misfortune, soon after our marriage, of labouring under an ill state of health, which, as we all feared, would terminate in a dropy.

His lordship was still kinder to me in other affairs, insomuch that in less than two months after our marriage, he sent me into the west, with thirty guineas in my pocket, to supply the place of a worthy clergyman, whom my lord had sent for to town upon particular business;

finess; and because the ill health of my wife required a little country air, his lordship proposed taking lodgings for her at Knightsbridge during my absence, where she was daily to be attended by his own physician.

AT the end of six weeks his lordship was pleased to recall me to town, where I had the inexpressible satisfaction of finding my wife returned to her house, perfectly cured of her disorder, with only a little paleness remaining from the violent remedies prescribed to her by her physician. I had the additional happiness of finding his lordship with my wife, waiting my return, and to be honoured with his thanks for the faithful discharge of my trust, together with a promise of the very first living that should fall within his gift.

I MENTION these things, sir, to the honour of my noble benefactor, who ever since my marriage, which is now three years ago, has been lavishing his favours upon me; who has been so very condescending as to stand godfather in person to my two children, and to take every opportunity of making me happy by his visits. But I am not entering into a particular detail of the pleasures I enjoy: I

have another motive for troubling you with this letter.

HIS lordship, the beginning of this month, was pleased, amongst the many instances of his goodness, to procure for me a chaplainship in one of the regiments now in Scotland; and as my attendance was immediately necessary, and my wife too far gone with child to think of going with me; as soon as I had prepared every thing for my journey, I sent an advertisement to the Daily Advertiser in the following words.

“ WANTED an agreeable companion in
“ a post chaise to Edinburgh. Enquire for
“ the reverend W. B. at the Green-Park
“ coffee-house, Piccadilly. Note, the ut-
“ most expedition will be necessary.”

THE next morning, as I was reading a news-paper in the coffee-room, I heard a young gentleman, of a very modest and decent appearance, enquiring at the bar for the reverend Mr. W. B. I told him that I was the person, and calling for a couple of dishes of coffee, we sat down together, and entered upon the subject of the advertisement. He assured me, that if his friends did not flatter him,

him, he was a very agreeable companion; that he had business of consequence to transact at Edinburgh; that he was particularly pleased to find by the advertisement that I was a clergyman, having a great veneration for gentlemen of that function; that he had entertained thoughts of becoming one himself, was a near relation of the bishop of * * *, and though young as he appeared, he was never so happy as when engaged in serious conversation with a worthy divine. He was pleased to add, that he saw something in my appearance which entitled me to that character, and that he did not doubt of being greatly edified during so long a journey. Many civilities passed on my side in return; and in the end it was agreed that we should set out that very evening at six o' clock. He was punctual to his appointment, with a servant on horseback, leading a handsome gelding for his master, who with two young gentlemen, his friends, were waiting for me at the inn. I could not help observing, while the chaise was getting ready, that these young gentlemen were taking a good deal of pains to stifle a laugh, which on our stepping into the

the

the carriage, they were no longer able to contain: but I made no remarks upon their behaviour, and we set out upon our journey.

WE reached Ware that night, without any thing happening worthy of remark, except that we were stopt upon the road by two young gentlemen on horseback, and interrupted in a very serious conversation, by their saluting my companion with "Z — ds, Jack! what playing "the faint, and travelling to Heaven with a "parson!" My fellow-traveller gave them a look of contempt, and after assuring them that he had not the honour of knowing them, and pulling up the glass, ordered the postilion to drive on.

OUR evening at Ware was spent in remarks on the dissoluteness of the times, and the indecent liberties that wild and profligate young fellows were every where taking with the clergy. After much serious discourse, and moderate refreshment, we retired to rest. I slept longer than usual in the morning, and no sooner was I awake, than I discovered with equal confusion and surprize, that I was in bed with a woman, who, as I attempted to get up, threw her arms about my neck, and compelled me to lie down. The struggle and
the

the noise I made upon this occasion, together with the screams of the woman, who still held me fast, alarmed the whole inn, and drew a crowd of spectators into the room, headed by my companion, and followed by a soldier, who called himself the husband of the woman, swearing that he would have my heart's blood for corrupting the chastity of his wife. I pleaded my innocence to an unbelieving audience, while the woman accused me of having forced her against her will; pretending that it was her misfortune overnight to be a little in liquor, and that she had mistaken the room I lay in for her own.

To dwell no longer than is needful upon this disgraceful affair, I was in the end compelled to give a guinea to the soldier, and afterwards to submit with patience to the insults of a mob, who surrounded the inn at our entrance into the post-chaise, and followed it with hootings to the very extremity of the town.

FROM the passive behaviour of my companion at the inn, and the demure looks that he now put on, I began to harbour a suspicion of him not greatly to his advantage; and while I was deliberating in what manner to
address

address him, an accident happened, which at once threw him off his guard, and discovered to me, that instead of an agreeable companion, I was travelling with a fiend. This accident was the sudden and violent overturning of the post-chaise; upon which occasion, though neither of us was hurt, he discharged such a volley of curses on the postilion, as made me tremble to hear him. I endeavoured to pacify him by the gentlest admonitions, which instead of calming his anger, turned it all upon myself; and amidst a thousand oaths and imprecations, he vowed revenge upon my head, telling me that he hated a parson as he hated old Nic; that he had bribed the soldier's whore to go to bed to me at the inn, and that he came out upon no other business than to play the devil with me all the way. I stood aghast at what I heard, and refused getting into the chaise again; upon which a struggle ensued, and blows passed between us; till by the assistance of his servant, and the knavery of the postilion, whom he gained over to his side with a whole handful of silver, I was thrust into the chaise, and compelled to go on.

WE

WE had scarcely travelled a mile before we overtook a couple of Gypsies upon the road; one an old woman, the other a girl. They were all over rags and filth, and so intoxicated with liquor, that they reeled at every step. My companion called to the postilion to stop, and after questioning these wretches about the way they were going, got out of the chaise, and told me that he could not in charity sit lolling at his ease, while two of the tender sex were walking barefoot on the road; and that if I had no weighty objections, he would make the old lady an offer of his seat, and Miss, as he was pleased to call her, might with great conveniency sit upon my knee. It was in vain for me to expostulate, or to attempt leaping out after him: his servant held me fast by the arm, while the master with great gravity and ceremony handed the creatures into the chaise, and then mounting his horse, rode close by its side, talking obscenity to the wretches, and instructing them to behave to me in a manner not to be endured nor described.

IN this manner we passed through the villages, and entered Royston; the postilion being

ing ordered to walk his horses gently to the inn, that we might be followed by a mob, whom my companion called to at every turning to smoke the parson and his doxies.

I STEPT from the chaise amidst the hallowing of the rabble, and ran into a room, the door of which I locked. Here I determined to remain, or to fly to the magistrate for protection, had not my tormentor made his appearance at the window, telling me that as the joke was now at an end, and as he believed I had had enough of an agreeable companion, he had altered his intention of visiting Scotland, and should return to town that morning. I thanked him for the favour, but kept close to my room, till I saw him with his servant ride out of the inn, and take the road to London. I then ordered some refreshment to be brought me, and a post-chaise to be in readiness ; but how great was my astonishment, when feeling for my purse, which contained forty guineas at my setting out, I found that my pockets had been rifled, and that I had not so much as a brass farthing left me.

As

As it was no doubt with me that the Gypsies had robbed me, I made immediate enquiry after them, but learnt that they had disappeared on our arrival at the inn; and though the most diligent search was made for them, they were no where to be found.

It was now impossible for me to proceed; I therefore determined to remain where I was, till I could receive a fresh supply from my wife, to whom I dispatched a messenger with a letter, setting forth at large all the cruelties I had met with.

WHEN the messenger was gone, it occurred to me, that however ill my companion had used me, he could not be base enough to concert this robbery with the Gypsies, and therefore might be inclined to make up my loss, upon knowing that I had sustained it. For this reason I determined once more to transmit my complaints to the WORLD; that if the young gentleman has any one principle of honour remaining, he may send to Mr. Doddsley's the sum I have been defrauded of. My demand upon him is for seven and thirty Guineas, which unless he pays within six days after

after the publication of this letter, I will forthwith print his name in the news-papers, and proclaim to the public the injuries he has done me.

I HAVE another reason for giving you this trouble, which is, to caution all gentlemen for the future against advertising in the papers for an AGREEABLE COMPANION in a post-chaise ; as it consoles me not a little, that I am enabled to make other people wise, even by my own misfortunes.

I am,

George inn
at Royston,
July 16, 1756.

SIR,

Your obliged

and most faithful servant,

W. B.



NUMB. 187. THURSDAY, *July 29, 1756.*

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

AMONG all the grievances that your correspondents have from time to time laid before you, I have met with no one situation that bears any likeness to my own, or that deserves your compassion and advice half so much. I am the brother of four sisters, am the eldest of my family, a freeman of the city of London, and by trade a shoemaker. My father enjoyed a small place at court, which I believe, one year with another, brought him in about a hundred and fifty pounds. My mother was descended from the third or fourth-cousin of an attainted Scotch peer, was a lady's woman when my father married her, and brought with her a very large portion of pride, virtue, and fine breeding. My father, who before his marriage had held up his head very high as a courtier, was now of greater
con-

consequence than ever, in the thought that by this happy match he had allied himself to nobility. My mother indeed had one great mortification to surmount, which was, that she had not only contaminated her blood by marrying a plebeian, who was formerly a broken tallow-chandler in the city, but had changed her illustrious maiden name for the coarse and vulgar appellation of Mrs. Laycock. She comforted herself however, on the first appearance of her pregnancy, that so odious a surname should be qualified in her children with the genteelest and most elegant christian names that history or romance could possibly supply. My father approved the thought; and no sooner was I a fortnight old, than I was christened with great pomp and grandeur, by the name of PTOLEMY. My eldest sister, who came into the world a year after, was called WILHELMINA CHARLOTTA, the second PENTHESILEA, the third TELETHUSA, and the fourth HONORIA. There was also a second son, who died within the month, christened AGAMEMNON.

WE were all of us trained up to regard these names as marks of superiority over o-

ther children, and such as would one time or other most certainly make our fortunes. If master PTOLEMY was naughty, he was not chid as a vulgar child, but admonished with all the gentleness and forbearance due to so illustrious a name. If miss WILHELMINA CHARLOTTA, or her sisters miss PENTHESILEA, miss TELETHUSA, or miss HONORIA forgot to hold up their heads, or were caught at romps with the boys, they were put in mind of their names, and instructed to act up to them. Our dresses were, if possible, as fantastic as our names, and the formality of our behaviour was of a piece with both. And though we were the plainest children in the world, and had not the least probable chance of receiving a single shilling to our portions, we were trained up to pride and idleness, and to turn up our noses at all the Dicks, Toms and Harrys, the Sukeys and Pollys, that were our superiors in the neighbourhood.

THE necessary expences to support all this pride and folly, were more than could be spared from the narrow income of my father : and master PTOLEMY, who was now eleven years old, must have been as totally unedu-
cated

cated as the misses his sisters, if my father's brother, who was a reputable shoemaker in the city, had not taken me into his care, and sent me to St. Paul's school at his own expence. To this accident of my life I owe my escape from ruin. I was called king PTOLEMY by all the boys, and so laughed at for my importance, that I soon grew ashamed of my name; and at the end of three years, when my mother thought it high time for me to return to court, I chose to accept of an offer my uncle had made me of becoming his apprentice, and entering into partnership with him when my time was expired. My father's consent was pretty easily obtained, as he found himself in an ill state of health, and unable to provide for me: but my mother was inexorable. She considered that my great name would but ill suit with so low a calling; and when she saw me determined, she told me in a flood of tears at parting, I was the first PTOLEMY that ever made shoes.

FOR my own part, I had been so humbled at school about my name, that I never afterwards wrote more than the first letter of it: and as P very luckily looked more like Philip

than PTOLEMY, I have escaped the ridicule that would otherwise have been thrown upon me.

At the end of my apprenticeship my uncle gave me his only daughter in marriage, and dying soon after, I succeeded to his trade and effects, and to a fortune in good debts and money, to the amount of four thousand pounds.

My mother, who had never thoroughly recovered the shock of her son PTOLEMY's disgrace, died a few months after my uncle, and my father followed her this summer, leaving to my sisters no other fortune than their names, which to my great sorrow, has not been quite so current in the world as to enable them to live upon it. To be as short as I can, if they were all thrown upon my hands, and are like to continue with me as long as I live. But the misfortune is, that to keep my sisters from starving, I must become a beggar myself; for the expences they bring, and the nothing they do, will not suffer me to go on. By their dresses, their names, and the airs of quality they give themselves, I am rendered ridiculous among all my acquaintance. My wife,

who

who is a very plain good woman, and whose name is Amey, has been new-christened, and is called Amelia; and my little daughter, a child of a year old, is no longer Polly, but Maria. They ~~are~~ perpetually quarrelling with one another about the superiority of their names; and because the eldest sister has two, and the others but one, they have entered into a combination to rob her of both, and almost to break her heart, by calling her miss Laycock.

I HAVE shewn them the impossibility of my maintaining them much longer, and, as tenderly as I was able, proposed their going into service: but they told me with the utmost indignation, that whatever a shoemaker in the city might imagine to the contrary, the names of WILHELMINA CHARLOTTA, PENTHE-SILEA, TELETHUSA and HONORIA, were by no means servants' names, and unless I found myself inclined to make a better provision for them, they should continue where they were. Nay, my youngest sister, miss HONORIA, who thinks herself handsome, had the impudence to tell me, that if ever she condescended to lett out her person for hire, it

should be for other uses than those of a servant: to which miss TELETHUSA was pleased to add, that indeed she was entirely of miss HONORIA's opinion; for that the sin of being a mistress was not half so shocking to her as the shame of being a servant.

You will judge, sir, how desirous I am to rid the house of them, when I tell you that I have even offered to take a shop for them at the court end of the town, and to give each of them a hundred pounds to set up with, in any way they shall chuse: but their great names, forsooth, are not to be prostituted upon shop-bills, whatever their brother PTOLEMY, the shoemaker, in his great zeal to serve them, may please humbly to conceive. Yet with these truly great names, that are not to be contaminated by trade or service, they have condescended to rob my Till two or three times; and no longer ago than last week, when I caught my eldest sister in the fact, she told me with great dignity, that it became her brother PTOLEMY to blush, at laying her under the necessity of doing an action that was so much beneath her.

I HAVE

I HAVE laid the whole affair before the minister of the parish, who has taken a great deal of pains to reason them into their senses, but to no purpose : and unless you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, who are a travelled man, can direct them to any part of the globe, where great names, great pride, great indolence, and great poverty are the only qualifications that men look for in a wife, I must shut up shop in a few days, and leave miss WILHELMINA CHARLOTTA, and the other misses her sisters, with their illustrious names, to go begging about the streets. If you know of any such place, and will do me the favour to mention it in your next Thursday's paper, you will save a whole family from ruin, and infinitely oblige,

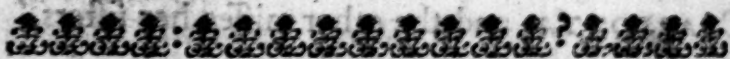
SIR,

Your most sorrowful

bumble Servant,

P. LAYCOCK.

THE case of my correspondent is, I confess, a very hard one; and I wish with all my heart that I had discovered in my travels such a country as he hints at. All the advice I can give him is, to send for the minister of the parish once more, and get his sisters re-baptized: for till they can be prevailed upon to have new names, it will be altogether impossible to give them new natures.



NUMB. 188. THURSDAY, *Aug. 5, 1756.*

THOUGH the first of the following letters bears a little hard upon the ladies, for whom I have always professed a regard even to veneration, yet I am induced to give it a place in my paper, from the consideration that if the complaint contained in it should happen to have the least foundation in truth, they may have an opportunity of adding another proof to the multitudes they are daily giving, that they want only to be told of their errors, to amend them. Of the second letter I shall say nothing more, than that the expedient proposed in it to remove

move the evil complained of, has my entire approbation.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

WITH as much devotion for the fair as any man, and as high a sense of the happiness they are capable of imparting, I have resolved to die an old bachelor; yet not in the least determined by the strongest arguments against matrimony, or the most fashionable motives to a single life. It is my misfortune to esteem *delicacy, œconomy, modesty*, and some of the qualifications conveyed under the idea of *notable*, as the most engaging ornaments of a well-bred woman. How unhappy then am I, that none of these should be of repute in the present age!

I HAD once formed a design of transporting myself to Spain or China, for a lady of the *domestic* kind; but giving the preference to those of my own country, I delayed my intention, till I should see the influence your weekly admonitions were attended with. I am now sorry to find, that notwithstanding

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your

your censorial dignity, they have openly dared to persist in those fashions you have so long opposed. An unaccountable propensity to visit public places; a general nakedness of shoulders, a remarkable bluntness of face, a loud voice, and a masculine air, have lately gained much ground in the country; and I am apt to think I shall shortly see the necks and bosoms of my fair country-women painted with devices of birds and beasts, in imitation of the ancient Britons, though they are now contented with plain white and red.

I HAVE observed, that as we are gradually retreating from the courage and greatness of our sex, the ladies are advancing with hasty strides upon us; and whether we shall long maintain the pre-eminence, is a point much liable to dispute.

I CANNOT but suspect them of entertaining designs of invading the province of man; and though I acknowledge their boundless power, I never was formed to obey, and cannot think of submission. But admitting that the present generation of beauties are totally unfit for wives, except to those gentle minds, who would think themselves honoured by having
their

their thousands spent in the genteelest manner, yet in another capacity they might be made of the greatest service to their country. When I see their hair tied in a knot behind, or either hanging down in a ramellie, or folded up in ribbons, I cannot but look on them as the fair defenders of Britain, on whose gallantry I should rather chuse to rely, than on all the boasted prowess of our military Beaux. On this footing I can excuse them for sacrificing the thousand nameless powers of pleasing which nature has invested them with, for the powers of destroying, and consent to their changing the darts of Cupid for the armour of Mars. Whatever magazines of lightening are laid up in their bright eyes, I hope they will blaze out on this occasion.

If it should be objected that we ought to have proofs of their valour, and that a big look may be consistent with a faint heart; I answer, that there can be no great reason to doubt the bravery of those, who have made it one of their first maxims "never to be afraid of man": and besides, that natural love of conquest which possesses every individual of the female world, would animate them forward to the boldest

boldest enterprizes. I would farther propose, that the more gay and airy of them should be distributed into a body of flying light-horse; the Gadabouts would make an excellent company of foragers; the more delicate of them would serve to carry the colours, and the sight of them would inspire the soldiers with unequalled resolution and courage. Thus they might all be disposed in ranks and stations suitable to their respective merits, distinctions and qualifications, from the first lady of quality, to the lowest female belle in the country village. I should also advise, that a sufficient number of female transports should be sent to the relief of our garrisons abroad, if it was not from my apprehensions that they would not be able to sustain a long siege, and might perhaps be captivated by the immense fineness of an embroidered knight of the order of St. Louis. I have only one circumstance more to mention to excite their zeal, which is, that they must be obliged to content themselves with their own invented fashions, till the successes of their arms shall oblige the French to accept of our wealth for those that are *alamode de Paris*.

If this proposal be agreeable to your judgment, I hope you will second it by the warmest encouragements. May we not exult in the prospect of that glorious career of success which must attend an army of heroines, bred to a contempt of danger, and trained up from infancy itself to the most intimate acquaintance with *balls, drums, routs, hurricanes*, and the like?

I am,

SIR,

Your humble servant,

A. SINGLETON.

MR. FITZ-ADAM,

I HAVE a complaint to lay before you, which, to the best of my memory, you have not hitherto touched upon. The ground of my complaint, sir, is this. News, you know, never was more fluctuating than at this moment. What we are told at breakfast is contradicted by noon, and that again is old by dinner; the dinner-tale scarcely lasts till coffee, and all is found to be false before night. And yet, sir, there are a set of wise men, who are always satisfied with the last tale, and constantly

stantly assure you they were all along of that opinion. "Lord, sir, I knew it must be so; "how could it be otherwise? I always said "so:" and though accounts vary to-morrow, it does not at all affect them; for to-morrow they will have been all along perfectly well acquainted with just the contrary to what they knew so well to-day. This everlasting knowledge and secret intelligence is really, sir, a most provoking insult on us poor things, who are not so knowing. If I am wrong to-day, my friend is wrong to-morrow, and that puts us on an equality; but these people, who are always sure to be of the right opinion, because they have no opinion at all, are not to be endured.

BUT it is one thing to complain, and another to redress; and unless I thought I had some method to remedy the evil, I would not complain of it. The remedy I would propose is simply this: that the term *I* be for ever excluded all conversations. There is not, perhaps, one single impertinence or foppery in discourse, that is not imputable to that same little letter *I*. The old man, going to repeat the lie he has talked himself into a belief of,

cries,

cries, *I* remember when *I* was young. The maiden of fifty blesses her stars, and says, *I* was not such a flirt. The bold colonel tells you, *I* led on the men, *I* entered the breach. The rake, *I* debauched such a girl, *I* drank down such a fellow. Now, sir, fond as people are of being foolish, they would even consent to be wise, if it was not confining their follies to their own dear persons. The old man's dull story is only to let you see what *he* was himself. The maiden gentlewoman only means to exemplify her own modesty, and does not care a pin for all the frailties of her neighbours, but that she has thereby an opportunity of telling you how virtuous she herself is. The soldier never tells you of a campaign, but the one he was himself in. The rake never tells you of any follies but his own; and the wise men I complained of in the beginning of my letter, never tell you Mr. Such-a-one always thought so, or Mr. Somebody always said so, but *I* always thought so, *I* always said so. Let me therefore intreat you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, to forbid the use of this monosyllable, and you will much oblige,

SIR, *Your friend, &c.*

W.



NUMB. 189. THURSDAY, *Aug.* 12. 1756.

WE are accused by the French, and perhaps but too justly, of having no word in our language, which answers to their word *police*, which therefore we have been obliged to adopt, not having, as they say, the thing.

It does not occur to me that we have any one word in our language (I hope not from the same reason) to express the ideas which they comprehend under their word *les mœurs*. Manners are too little, morals too much. I should define it thus; *a general exterior decency, fitness and propriety of conduct, in the common intercourse of life.*

CICERO in his *Offices*, makes use of the word *decorum* in this sense, to express what he tells us the Greeks signified by their word (I will not shock the eyes of my polite readers with Greek types) *To Prepon*.

THE thing however is unquestionably of importance, by whatever word it may be dignified or degraded, distinguished or mistaken

it

it shall therefore be the subject of this paper to explain and recommend it; and upon this occasion I shall adopt the word *decorum*.

BUT as I have some private reasons for desiring not to lessen the sale of these my lucubrations, I must premise, that notwithstanding this serious introduction, I am not going to preach either religious or moral duties. On the contrary, it is a scheme of interest which I mean to communicate, and which, if the supposed characteristic of the present age be true, must, I should apprehend, be highly acceptable to the generality of my readers.

I TAKE it for granted that the most sensible and informed part of mankind, I mean people of fashion, pursue singly their own interests and pleasures; that they desire as far as possible to enjoy them exclusively, and to avail themselves of the simplicity, the ignorance, and the prejudices of the vulgar, who have neither the same strength of mind, nor the same advantages of education. Now it is certain that nothing would more contribute to that desirable end, than a strict observance of this *decorum*, which, as I have already hinted, does not extend to religious or moral duties, does not prohibit

prohibit the solid enjoyments of vice, but only throws a veil of decency between it and the vulgar, conceals part of its native deformity, and prevents scandal, and bad example. It is a sort of pepper-corn quit-rent paid to virtue, as an acknowledgment of its superiority; but according to our present constitution, is the easy price of freedom, not the tribute of vassalage.

THOSE who would be respected by others, must first respect themselves. A certain exterior purity and dignity of character, commands respect, procures credit, and invites confidence; but the public exercise and ostentation of vice, has all the contrary effects.

THE middle class of people in this country, though generally straining to imitate their betters, have not yet shaken off the prejudices of their education; very many of them still believe in a Supreme Being, in a future state of rewards and punishments, and retain some coarse home-spun notions of moral good and evil. The rational system of materialism has not yet reached them; and in my opinion, it may be full as well it never should; for as I am not of levelling principles, I am for preserving a
due

due subordination from inferiors to superiors, which an equality of profligacy must totally destroy.

A FAIR character is a more lucrative thing than people are generally aware of ; and I am informed that an eminent money-scrivener has lately calculated with great accuracy the advantage of it, and that it has turned out a clear profit of thirteen and a half per cent in the general transactions of life ; which advantage, frequently repeated, as it must be in the course of the year, amounts to a very considerable object.

To proceed to a few instances. If the courtier would but wear the appearance of truth, promise less, and perform more, he would acquire such a degree of trust and confidence, as would enable him to strike on a sudden, and with success, some splendid stroke of perfidy, to the infinite advantage of himself and his party.

A PATRIOT, of all people, should be a strict observer of this *decorum*, if he would (as it is to be presumed he would) bear a good price at the court market. The love of his dear country, well acted and little felt, will certainly

certainly get him into good keeping, and perhaps procure him a handsome settlement for life; but if his prostitution be flagrant, he is only made use of in cases of the utmost necessity, and even then only by cullies. I must observe by the by, that of late the market has been a little glutted with patriots, and consequently they do not sell quite so well.

FEW masters of families are, I should presume, desirous to be robbed indiscriminately by all their servants; and as servants in general are more afraid of the devil, and less of the gallows, than of their masters, it seems to be as imprudent as indecent to remove that wholesome fear, either by their examples, or their philosophical dissertations, exploding in their presence, though ever so justly, all the idle notions of future punishments, or of moral good and evil. At present, honest faithful servants rob their masters conscientiously only in their respective stations; but take away those checks and restraints which the prejudices of their education have laid them under, they will soon rob indiscriminately, and out of their several departments; which would
probably

probably create some little confusion in families, especially in numerous ones.

I CANNOT omit observing, that this *decorum* extends to the little trifling offices of common life; such as seeming to take a tender and affectionate part, in the health or fortune of your acquaintance, and a readiness and alacrity to serve them, in things of little consequence to them, and of none at all to you. These attentions bring in good interest; the weak and the ignorant mistake them for the real sentiments of your heart, and give you their esteem and friendship in return. The wise indeed, pay you in your own coin, or by a truck of commodities of equal value; upon which however there is no loss; so that upon the whole, this commerce, skilfully carried on, is a very lucrative one.

IN all my schemes for the general good of mankind, I have always a particular attention to the utility that may arise from them to my fair fellow subjects, for whom I have the tenderest and most unfeigned concern; and I lay hold of this opportunity, most earnestly to recommend to them the strictest observance of this *decorum*. I will admit that a fine woman
of

of a certain rank, cannot have too many real vices ; but at the same time, I do insist upon it, that it is essentially her interest not to have the appearance of any one. This *decorum*, I confess, will conceal her conquests, and prevent her triumphs ; but on the other hand, if she will be pleased to reflect that those conquests are known, sooner or later, always to end in her total defeat, she will not upon an average find herself a loser. There are indeed some husbands of such humane and hospitable dispositions, that they seem determined to share all their happiness with their friends and acquaintance ; so that with regard to such husbands singly, this *decorum* were useless : but the far greater number are of a churlish and uncommunicative disposition, troublesome upon bare suspicions, and brutal upon proofs. These are capable of inflicting upon the fair delinquent the pains and penalties of exile and imprisonment at the dreadful mansion-seat, notwithstanding the most solemn protestations, and oaths, backed with the most moving tears, that nothing really criminal has passed. But it must be owned that of all negatives, That is much the hardest to be proved.

THOUGH

THOUGH deep play be a very innocent and even commendable amusement in itself, it is however, as things are yet constituted, a great breach, nay perhaps the highest violation possible of the *decorum* in the fair sex. If generally fortunate, it induces some suspicion of dexterity; if unfortunate, of debt; and in this latter case, the ways and means for raising the supplies necessary for the current year, are sometimes supposed to be unwarrantable. But what is still much more important, is, that the agonies of an ill run will disfigure the finest face in the world, and cause most ungraceful emotions. I have known a best game, suddenly produced upon a good game, for a deep stake at Bragg or Commerce, almost make the vermilion turn pale, and elicit from lips, where the sweets of Hybla dwelt, and where the loves and graces played, some murmured oaths, which though minced and mitigated a little in their terminations, seemed to me, upon the whole, to be rather unbecoming.

ANOTHER singular advantage which will arise to my fair countrywomen of distinction from the observance of this *decorum*, is, that they will never want some creditable led captain

tain to attend them at a minute's warning to operas, plays, Ranelagh and Vauxhall ; whereas I have known some women of extreme condition, who by neglecting the *decorum*, had flattered away their characters to such a degree, as to be obliged upon those emergencies to take up with mere toad-eaters of very equivocal rank and character, who by no means graced their entry into public places.

To the young unmarried ladies, I beg leave to represent, that this *decorum* will make a difference of at least five-and-twenty, if not fifty per cent in their fortunes. The pretty men, who have commonly the honour of attending them, are not in general the marrying kind of men ; they love them too much, or too little, know them too well, or not well enough, to think of marrying them. The husband-like men are a set of awkward fellows with good estates, and who not having got the better of vulgar prejudices, lay some stress upon the characters of their wives, and the legitimacy of the heirs to their estates and titles. These are to be caught only by *les mœurs* ; the hook must be baited with the *decorum* ; the naked one will not do.

I MUST own that it seems too severe to deny young ladies the innocent amusements of the present times, but I beg of them to recollect that I mean only with regard to outward appearances; and I should presume that *tete a tetes* with the pretty men might be contrived and brought about in places less public than Kensington-gardens, the two parks, the high roads, or the streets of London.

HAVING thus combined, as I flatter myself that I have, the solid enjoyments of vice, with the useful appearances of virtue, I think myself entitled to the thanks of my country in general, and to that just praise which Horace gives to the author, *qui miscuit utile dulci*; or in English, who joins the useful with the agreeable.



NUMB. 190. THURSDAY, Aug. 19, 1756.

I CAN remember, when I was a young man at the university, being so much affected with that very pathetic speech, which Ovid has put into the mouth of Pythagoras, against eating the flesh of animals, that it was

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some time before I could bring myself to our college mutton again, without some inward doubt whether I was not making myself an accomplice to a murder. My scruples remained unreconciled to the committing so horrid a meal, till upon serious reflection I became convinced of its legality, from the general order of nature, who has instituted the universal preying upon the weaker as one of her first principles; though to me it has ever appeared an incomprehensible mystery, that she who could not be restrained by any want of materials from furnishing supplies for the support of her various offspring, should lay them under the necessity of devouring one another.

BUT though this reflection had force enough to dispythagorize me, before my companions had time to make observations upon my behaviour, which could by no means have turned to my advantage in the world, I for a great while retained so tender a regard for all my fellow creatures, that I have several times brought myself into imminent peril, by my attempts to rescue persecuted cats from the hands and teeth of their worryers; by endeavouring to prevent the engagement of dogs, who had manifestly

manifestly no quarrel of their own, and by putting butchers boys in mind, that as their sheep were going to die, they walked full as fast as could be reasonably expected, without the cruel blows, they were so liberal in bestowing upon them. As I commonly came off by the worst in these disputes, and as I could not but observe that I often aggravated, never diminished, the ill treatment of these innocent sufferers, I soon found it necessary to consult my own ease, as well as security, by turning down another street, whenever I met with any adventure of this kind, rather than be compelled to be a spectator of what would shock me, or be provoked to run myself into danger, without the least advantage to those whom I would assist.

I HAVE kept strictly ever since to this method of flying from the sight of cruelty, whenever I could find ground-room for it: and I make no manner of doubt, that I have more than once escaped the horns of a mad ox, as all of that species are called, that do not *chuse* to be tormented as well as killed. But on the other hand, these escapes of mine have very frequently run me into great inconveni-

encies: I have sometimes been led into such a series of blind alleys, that it has been matter of great difficulty to me to find my way out of them. I have been betrayed by my hurry into the middle of a market, the proper residence of inhumanity. I have paid many a six-and-eight-pence for non-appearance at the hour my lawyer had appointed for business; and, what would hurt some people worse than all the rest, I have frequently arrived too late for the dinners I have been invited to at the houses of my friends.

ALL these difficulties and distresses, I began to flatter myself, were going to be removed, and that I should be left at liberty to pursue my walks through the straitest and broadest streets, when Mr. Hogarth first published his prints upon the subject of cruelty; but whatever success so much ingenuity, founded upon so much humanity, might deserve, all the hopes I had built of seeing a reformation, proved vain and fruitless. I am sorry to say it, but there still remain in the streets of this metropolis more scenes of barbarity, than perhaps are to be met with in all Europe besides. Asia is too well known for compassion to
brutes;

brutes ; and nobody who has read *Bulbequius*, will wonder at me for most heartily wishing, that our common people were no crueller than Turks.

I SHOULD have apprehensions of being laughed at, were I to complain of want of compassion in our law ; the very word seeming contradictory to any idea of it ; but I will venture to own that to me it appears strange, that the man against whom I should be enabled to bring an action for laying a little dirt at my door, may with impunity drive by it half a dozen calves, with their tails lopped close to their bodies, and their hinder parts covered with blood. He must have a passion for neatness not to be envied, who does not think this a greater nuisance, than the sight of a few cinders.

I KNOW not whether it is from the clergy's having looked upon this subject as too trivial for their notice, that we find them more silent upon it than could be wished : for as slaughter is at present no branch of the priesthood, it is to be presumed they have as much compassion as other men. The Spectator has exclaimed against the cruelty of roasting lobsters

alive, and of whipping pigs to death : but the misfortune is, the writings of an Addison are seldom read by cooks and butchers. As to the thinking part of mankind, it has always been convinced, I believe, that however conformable to the general-rule of nature our devouring of animals may be (for I would not be understood to impeach, what is our only visible prerogative as lords of the creation, an unbounded licence of teeth) we are nevertheless under indelible obligations to prevent their suffering any degree of pain, more than is absolutely unavoidable. But this conviction lies in such hands, that I fear not one poor creature in a million has ever fared the better for it, and I believe never will ; since people of condition, the only source from whence this pity is to flow, are so far from inculcating it to those beneath them, that a very few winters ago, they suffered themselves to be entertained at a public theatre by the performances of an unhappy company of animals, who could only have been made actors by the utmost energy of whipcord and starving.

I ACKNOWLEDGE my tenderness to be particularly affected in favour of so faithful and useful
a creature

creature as a dog ; an animal so approaching to us in sense, so dependent upon us for support, and so peculiarly the friend of man, that he deserves the kindest and most gentle usage. For no less than the whole race of these animals have I been under the greatest alarms, ever since the tax upon dogs was first reported to be in agitation. I thought it a little hard indeed, that a man should be taxed for having one creature in his house, in which he might confide ; but when I heard that officers were to be appointed, to knock out the brains of all these honest domestics, who should presume to make their appearance in the streets without the passport of their master's name about their necks, I became seriously concerned for them.

THIS enmity against dogs is pretended to be founded upon the apprehension of their going mad : but an easier remedy might be applied by abolishing the custom (with many others equally ingenious) of tying bottles and stones to their tails ; by which means (and in this one particular I must give up my clients) the unfortunate sufferer becomes subject to the persecutions of his own species, too apt to join the run against a brother in distress. But great

allowance should be made for an animal, who in an intimacy of near six thousand years with man, has learnt but one of his bad qualities.

To conclude this subject, as I cannot but join in opinion with Mr. Hogarth, that the frequency of murders among us is greatly owing to those scenes of cruelty, which the lower ranks of people are so much accustomed to; instead of multiplying such scenes, I should rather hope that some proper method might be fixed upon, either for preventing them, or removing them out of sight; so that our infants might not grow up into the world in a familiarity with blood. If we may believe the naturalists, that a lion is a gentle animal till his tongue has been dipped in blood, what precaution ought we to use to prevent MAN from being inured to it, who has such superiority of power to do mischief!



NUMB. 191. THURSDAY, Aug. 26, 1756.

Difficile est Satiram non scribere. JUV.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

S I R,

IT has always appeared to me that there is something extremely absurd in a general satire: for as it will always instruct vanity how to shun, and enable impudence to reject its application, I cannot discover that it is likely to answer any better purpose, than that of giving encouragement to rogues, and administering comfort to fools.

THIS species of writing is by no means of modern invention, and consequently can have no essential connexion with the reigning manners of the present times. If we examine the satirists of any other age, we shall find that they have all unanimously followed the examples of their father Simonides, and represented the human species in a very unnatural light; nor

do I think it possible for any one to display his talents this way, without having recourse to the same expedient. From hence I would infer, that the description of a monstrous character, in those early days of simplicity and innocence, was considered only as an ingenious piece of invention, and that their false notion of wit was the sole occasion of their giving into such a ridiculous custom. And this, as I take it, will be sufficient to account for its being so fashionable with us at this time, though there be manifestly no other reason for our admitting it, than because we are pleased to fancy the judgment of the ancients, and love to copy indiscriminately from all their models with a servile veneration. But supposing this to be a true representation of the case before us, and that men of wit never satirize with any offensive design, but purely for the sake of displaying their abilities; yet what shall we say for those churlish malecontents, who pretend to write satire, with no other earthly talent for it than rank malevolence? Why truly, it is to be feared, they have no less exasperating a reason for reviling all mankind, than because they are deservedly despised by everybody

everybody that knows them. For as it is absurd to suppose that a man, who has always been very civilly treated by the world, should have any inclination to fall out with it in good earnest, so every worthless fellow who has been justly mortified by its contempt or aversion, will naturally be provoked to expose himself to its utmost derision, by a silly attempt to retaliate the insult. And hence it is, that if a few splenetic conceited wretches are not caressed up to the extravagant expectation of their own imaginary deserts, they shall immediately vent their resentment in all those alarming exclamations, which have, with equal propriety, been echoed through every century of the world. Then forsooth, that utter neglect of merit, which has been the constant reproach of every other age, shall once more be the peculiar infamy of this; then we shall be sunk again into the very dregs of time, and shall at length be most assuredly filling up that astonishing measure of iniquity, which has been just on the very brink of being completed, ever since the first judicial infliction of an universal deluge.

IT is very remarkable that this whim of degeneracy

generacy has always been most prevalent in the most refined and enlightened ages, and that it has constantly increased in exact proportion with the progress of arts and sciences. Every considerate person therefore, upon such a discovery, will of course be inclined to consider all invectives against the corruption of the present times, as so many convincing testimonies of our real improvement. I find, Mr. Fitz-Adam, it is your opinion that the experience of our ancestors has not been entirely thrown away upon us, and that the world is likely to grow better and wiser the longer it lasts. I must own I am entirely of your way of thinking, and should be very ready to declare, was I not afraid of offending your modesty, how much benefit it is likely to receive from your weekly instructions.

To those who are sequestered from the more crowded scenes of life, and must therefore find themselves forestalled almost on every subject, but such as the private fund of their own imaginations can furnish them with; to those, I say, it may seem very surprising that you should be able to procure so many fresh materials for the gratification of their curiosity.

But

But the fancy of the polite multitude is inexhaustibly fertile; and they who are conversant with it at this time, will be so far from imagining that you are distressed for want of novelty, that they will rather think it impossible for the nimblest pen to keep pace with its innovations. The only thing that can give them any surprise is, that you should still be catching at every recent folly that comes in your way, when they can supply you with such a plentiful crop of new and unheard-of virtues. I am aware that new virtues will sound a little odd to some precise formal creatures, who have conceived a strange notion that all the virtues must eternally and invariably result from some certain unintelligible principles, which are called the relations and fitnesses of things. But surely no man in his senses would ever refuse to vary the fashion of his morals, if the taste of the times required it: for it would be absurd to the last degree, to suppose that it is not altogether as reasonable to dress out our manners to the best advantage, as to wear any external ornament for the recommendation of our persons; and not only because the common practice of the world will

justify

justify our using as much art in managing the former as the latter, but because it is difficult to conceive that there should be any more essential harm in new modelling a habit of the mind, than in altering the trim of a coat or waistcoat.

AND really it is astonishing to think what an advantage our present improved state of morality has over all the ancient systems of virtue. If barely to avoid vice has been generally reckoned the beginning of virtue, to convert vice itself into virtue, must needs border very nearly on the very perfection of merit. And can any one pretend to deny but that many practices, which in times past were branded with infamy, have at length, by our ingenious contrivances, been transformed into the most reputable accomplishments? A great wit of the last age having asked, by way of a problem, why it was much more difficult to say any thing new in a panegyric than in a satire, endeavoured to account for it himself, by observing that all the virtues of mankind were to be counted upon a few fingers, whereas their vices were innumerable, and time was hourly adding to the heap. But a late moralist

list has been so obliging as to make a great diminution in the number of our vices, and withal so ingenious, as to inlist the greatest part of them into the catalogue of virtues; so that at present a copious lampoon ought to be looked upon as a work of amazing invention, and a trite or barren dedication as the effect only of dulness. I will not pretend to prophecy to what an eminent degree of perfection this double advantage must in time advance us. It is certain that we have at present but few vices left for us to encounter with; and as I have reason to believe, that it is their names chiefly which make them formidable, I think it would be very prudent first of all to give their characters a little softening: for could we but once bring ourselves to look upon them with indifference, I make no doubt but we should soon be able, either to extirpate them entirely, or, at least, to gain them over with the rest of their party to the side of virtue.

SOME travellers, indeed, have endeavoured to make us believe, that many of our modern virtues have been long since practised in some other parts of the world: but let them talk of the Mengrelians, Topinambo's and Hottentots

as much as they please, yet I am satisfied that we have made more refinements, if not more discoveries, than any of them; and that we are still cultivating many curious tracts in the regions of virtue, which, in all likelihood, without our assistance, might have forever remained in the terra incognita of morals.

I am,

SIR,

Yours, &c.



NUMB. 192. THURSDAY, *Sept. 2, 1756.*

IN all my researches into the human heart (the study of which has taken up my principal attention for these forty years past) I have never been so confounded and perplexed as at discovering, that while people are indulging themselves openly and without disguise in the commission of almost every vice that their natures incline them to, they should desire to conceal their virtues, as if they were really
ashamed

ashamed of them, and considered them as so many weaknesses in their constitutions. I know a man at this very hour, who is in his heart the most domestic creature living, and whose wife and children are the only delight of his life, yet who for fear of being laughed at by his acquaintance, and to get a reputation in the world, is doing penance every evening at the tavern, and perpetually hinting to his companions that he has a mistress in private. I am acquainted with another, who being overheard upon a sick bed to recommend himself to the care of Heaven in a short ejaculation, was so ashamed at being told of it, that he pleaded light-headedness for his excuse, protesting that he could not possibly have been in his right senses, and guilty of such a weakness. I know also a third, who from a serious turn of mind, goes to church every Sunday in a part of the town where he is totally unknown, that he may recommend himself to his acquaintance by laughing at public worship, and ridiculing the parsons.

THERE are men who are so fond of the reputation of an intrigue with a handsome married woman, that without the least passion for the

the object of their pursuit, or perhaps the ability to gratify it if they had, are toasting her in all companies, pursuing her to every public place, and eternally buzzing in her ear, to convince the world that they are in possession of a happiness, which if offered to them, would only end in their disappointment and disgrace. And what is still more unaccountable, the lady, thus pursued, who possibly prefers her husband to all other men, shall countenance by her behaviour the suspicions entertained of her; and contenting herself with the secret consciousness of her innocence, shall take pains to be thought infamous by the whole town.

THAT there are persons of a different stamp from these, I very readily allow; persons who determine to pay themselves by pleasure for the scandal they have occasioned. But it is really my opinion, that if the mask were taken off, we should find more virtues and fewer vices to exist among us, than are commonly imagined by those who judge only from appearances.

A VERY ingenious French writer, speaking of the force of custom and example, makes the

the following remarks upon his countrymen.

“ A MAN, says he, of good sense and
 “ good nature speaks ill of the absent, because
 “ he would not be despised by those who are
 “ present. Another would be honest, hu-
 “ mane, and without pride, if he was not
 “ afraid of being ridiculous; and a third
 “ becomes really ridiculous, through such
 “ qualities as would make him a model of
 “ perfection, if he dared to exert them, and
 “ assume his just merits. In a word, con-
 “ tinues he, our vices are artificial as well as
 “ our virtues, and the frivolousness of our
 “ characters permits us to be but imperfectly
 “ what we are. Like the play-things we
 “ give our children, we are only a faint re-
 “ semblance of what we would appear. Ac-
 “ cordingly we are esteemed by other nations
 “ only as the petty toys and trifles of society.
 “ The first law of our politeness regards the
 “ women. A man of the highest rank owes
 “ the utmost complaisance to a woman of the
 “ very lowest condition, and would blush for
 “ shame, and think himself ridiculous in the
 “ highest degree, if he offered her any personal
 “ insult.

“ insult. And yet such a man may deceive
 “ and betray a woman of merit, and blacken
 “ her reputation, without the least apprehen-
 “ sion either of blame or punishment.”

I HAVE quoted these remarks that I might do justice to the candour of the Frenchman who wrote them, and at the same time vindicate my countrymen (unaccountable as they are) from the unjust imputation of being more ridiculous and absurd than the rest of mankind.

IN France every married woman of condition intrigues openly; and it is thought the highest breach of French politeness for the husband to interfere in any of her pleasures. A man may be called to an account for having seduced his friend's sister or daughter, because it may be presumed he has carried his point by a promise of marriage; but with a married woman the case is quite different, as her gallant can only have applied to her inclinations, or gratified the longings of a lady, whom it had been infamy to have refused.

THERE is a story of a Frenchman, which as I have only heard once, and the majority of my readers perhaps never, I shall beg leave
 to

to relate. A banker at Paris, who had a very handsome wife, invited an English gentleman, with whom he had some money transactions, to take a dinner with him at his country-house. Soon after dinner the Frenchman was called out upon business, and his friend left alone with the lady, who to his great surprise, from being the easiest and gayest woman imaginable, scarcely condescended to give an answer to any of his questions; and at last, starting from her chair, and surveying him for some time with a look of indignation and contempt, she gave him a hearty box on the ear, and ran furiously out of the room. While the Englishman was stroking his face, and endeavouring to penetrate into this mysterious behaviour, the husband returned; and finding his friend alone, and enquiring into the reason, was told the whole story. What, sir, says he, did she strike you? How did you entertain her? With the common occurrences of the town, answered the Englishman; nothing more I assure you. And did you offer no rudeness to her, returned the other? No, upon my honour, replied the friend. She has behaved as she ought then, said the Frenchman: for
to

to be alone with a fine woman, and to make no attempt upon her virtue, is an affront to her beauty; and she has resented the indignity as became a woman of spirit.

I AM prevented from returning to the subject of this paper, by a letter which I have just now received by the penny-post, and which I shall lay before my readers exactly as it was sent me.

MR. FITZ-ADAM,

WALKING up St. James's street the other day, I was stopt by a very smart young female, who begged my pardon for her boldness, and looking very innocently in my face, asked me if I did not know her. The manner of her accosting me, and the extreme prettiness of her figure, made me look at her with attention; and I soon recollected that she had been a servant girl of my wife's, who had taken her from the country, and after keeping her three years in her service, had dismissed her about two months ago. "What, Nanny, said I, is
 "it you? I never saw any body so fine in all my
 "life." "O, sir!" says she (with the most innocent smile imaginable, bridling her head, and curt'ying down to the ground) "I have
 "been

“ been debauched since I lived with my mistress.” “ Have you so, Mrs. Nanny, said I ! And pray, child, who is it that has debauched you ? ” “ O, sir ! says she, one of the worthiest gentlemen in the world, and he has bought me a new negligèe for every day in the week.” The girl pressed me earnestly to go and look at her lodgings, which she assured me were hard by in Bury-street, and as fine as a duchess’s ; but I declined her offer, knowing that any arguments of mine in favour of virtue and stuff-gowns, would avail but little against pleasure and silk negligèes. I therefore contented myself with expressing my concern for the way of life she had entered into, and bid her farewell.

BEING a man inclined to speculate a little, as often as I think of the finery of this girl, and the reason alledged for it, I cannot help fancying, whenever I fall in company with a pretty woman, dressed out beyond her visible circumstances, patched, painted, and ornamented to the extent of the mode, that she is going to make me her best curt’sy, and to tell me, O, sir ! I have been debauched since I kept good company.

BUT

BUT though this excuse for finery was given me by a woman, I believe it may with equal propriety be applied to the men. Fine places, fine fortunes, fine houses, and fine things of all kinds, are too often purchased at the expence of honesty; and I seldom see a plain country gentleman turned courtier, and bowing in a fine coat at the levees of great men, whose looks do not tell me that he is come to town to be debauched.

I COULD wish, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that from these rude hints, you would favour your readers with a speculation upon this subject, which would be highly entertaining to all, and particularly obliging to,

S I R,

Your most obedient servant,

C. D.



NUMB. 193. THURSDAY, *Sept. 9,* 1756.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

S I R,

AS I have a singular favour to beg of you,
I think it proper to preface my request
with some account of myself.

I AM at present one of the numerous fraternity of DISTRESSED GENTLEMEN; a disconsolate being, daily contending betwixt pride and poverty; a mournful relict of mispent youth; a walking dial, with two hands pointing to the lost hours; and having been long ago tired with putting my fingers into empty pockets, am at last desirous of employing them in soliciting the assistance and recommendation of the WORLD.

I WAS bred at a great public school, not far from this metropolis, where I acquired a knowledge of the classics and the town, superior to my years. From this school I was transmitted to a renowned college in a celebrated university, from whence my dull and

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I

phlegmatic

phlegmatic cotemporaries have slid into the greatest preferments in church and state. They contented themselves indeed with going on a jog trot in the common road of application and patience, while I galloped with spirit through ways less confined, till at last I found myself benighted in a maze of debts and distresses. However, as I continued to adorn my mind with the most elevated sentiments of ancient and modern poetry, I was the most sanguine of all mortals, never once doubting but that the time would shortly arrive, when I was to be loaded with fortune, and distinguished by honours. I looked upon avarice as the meanest of vices, and therefore rooted it from my bosom. I considered friendship as the noblest of virtues, and therefore became the friend of everybody. Impudence I discarded, and called in modesty and humility to be my counsellors. Thus generous, friendly, modest and humble, I was placed by my friends in the Inner Temple. But I quickly discovered that my acquired virtues, and uncommon knowledge, were so many impediments to the study of the law; a profession too solid in itself to require any external advantages, and

(except

(except the great wig and serjeant's coiff) seeming absolutely independent of all acquisitions whatsoever. I therefore quitted it in time, and commenced fine gentleman. In this capacity I had the honour of sipping my chocolate in a certain house, was chosen member of a certain club, and soon found that I wanted nothing but money to have passed my time as agreeably as the best of them; that is to say, by being always in good company, without the fatigue of good conversation; ever at a feast, without the vulgar call of appetite; constantly at play, without the least sport; hungering after politics, without the powers of digestion; and embarrassed with acquaintance, without a single friend. But wanting the one thing needful for all these enjoyments, and there being a war upon the continent, I quitted the fine gentleman for the soldier, and made a campaign in Flanders. My regimentals were highly pleasing to me; and I had certainly succeeded to a staff before the end of the war, could I have arrived at the least smattering either of gunnery or fortification. I had read Cæsar's commentaries and Polybius, and fancied myself improved by them; but Bland's

treatise of military exercise was what I could never comprehend. However, I loitered through the campaign without ignominy, and at my return home wisely sold my commission.

THE great and decisive step in life still remained untried. The temple of Hymen, with all its enchanting prospects, was open to my view, and allured my attention. The groups of Cupids that seemed to flutter in the roof, together with the gaiety and satisfaction that appeared in every face, tempted me to enter; and amidst a crowd of beauties, a young lady of a most ingenious countenance and slender make, soon captivated my choice. She was void of pride, notable, steady, enterprizing, and every way qualified for the station of life in which fortune had placed her, which was that of a maid of honour to a foreign princess. Her name was mademoiselle NECESSITÉ, daughter of a younger branch of the ancient family of that name in Gascoigny. She lent a favourable ear to my addresses; and indeed a strong similitude of features and circumstances seemed to have destined us for one another.

AMIDST the inexpressible joys of this union, I became the father of two lovely daughters, who

who were christened by very genteel foreign names, signifying in English ASSURANCE and INVENTION. I exhausted the small remainder of my substance on the education of these daughters, not doubting but that they were given to me for the support of my declining years. At the instigation of the eldest, I commenced author, and made the press groan with my productions in prose and verse. I sighed for the revival of factions and parties, to have an opportunity of signalizing my pen in the service of my country ; and like the heroine of old, who encompassed a large territory with a single hide, I entertained hopes, from a well-timed halfpenny ballad, to new-hang my garget with the most elegant paper. But I soon found that I had nothing to eat but my own words, and that it was in vain for me to write, unless a scheme was found out to compel men to read : and indeed, were it not for the charity-schools, which have in some measure multiplied the literati in this country, the names of author and publisher would long since have been obliterated.

You may easily perceive, sir, that I am now in that class of life, which I can only distin-

guish by the title of a DISTRESSED GENTLEMAN. But however uncomfortable my situation may be, I am determined to give my existence fair play, and to see it out to the last act. You need therefore be under no apprehensions of my dying SUDDENLY : and to say the truth, I have so great a veneration for physicians and apothecaries, that I cannot think of taking the business out of their hands, by becoming my own executioner.

MY youngest daughter, who is really a most ingenious girl, has frequently solicited me to try a scheme of her's ; which, after long and mature deliberation, I am inclined to think may be of great service to my country, and of no small benefit to myself and family.

I HAVE long remarked the number of SUDDEN DEATHS that abound in this island, and have ever lamented the disgraceful methods that persons of both sexes in this metropolis are almost daily taking to get rid of their being. — The disfiguring pistol, the slow stupefaction of laudanum, the ignominious rope, the uncertain garter, the vulgarity of the new river, and the fetid impurity of Rosamond's pond, must be extremely shocking to the delicacy

licacy of all genteel persons, who are willing to die decently as well as suddenly. At once therefore to remedy these inconveniencies, I have contracted for a piece of ground near the Foundling hospital, and procured credit with a builder to erect convenient apartments for the reception of all such of the nobility, gentry and others, as are tired of life. I have contrived a most effectual machine for the easy decapitation of such as chuse that noble and honourable exit; which no doubt must give great satisfaction to all persons of quality, and those who would imitate them. I have a commodious bath for disappointed ladies, paved with marble, and fed by the clearest springs, where the patient may drown with the utmost privacy and elegance. I have pistols for gamesters, which (instead of bullets or flugs) are charged with loaded dice; so that they may have the pleasure of putting an end to their existence by the very means which supported it. I have daggers and poison for distressed actors and actresses, and swords fixed obliquely in the floor with their points upwards, for the gentlemen of the army. For attorneys, tradesmen and mechanics, who have no taste for the

genteeler exits, I have a long room, in which a range of halters are fastened to a beam, with their nooses ready tied. I have also a handsome garden for the entombing of all my good customers, and shall submit their consideration of me to their own generosity, only claiming their heads as my constant fee, that by frequent dissections and examinations into the several brains, I may at last discover and remedy the cause of so unnatural a propensity. And that nothing may be wanting to make my scheme complete, I propose agreeing with a coroner by the year, to bring in such verdicts as I shall think proper to direct.

THIS, sir, is my scheme; and the favour I have to ask, is, that you will recommend it to the public, and make it known through your WORLD, that I shall open my house on the first day of next November; and that to prevent mistakes, there will be written in large capitals over the door,

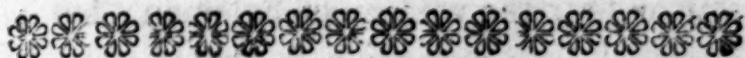
THE RECEPTACLE FOR SUICIDES.

I am,

SIR,

Your very humble servant,

JOHN ANTHONY TRISTMAN.



NUMB. 194. THURSDAY, Sept. 16, 1756.

I HAVE lately considered it as a very great misfortune, that in various papers of this work I have made no scruple of honestly confessing to my readers, that I look upon myself to be the wisest and most learned philosopher of this age and nation. But the word is gone forth, and I cannot retract it; nor indeed would it be fair in me to attempt it, as I find no manner of decay in my intellectual faculties, but on the contrary, that I am treasuring up new knowledge day after day. I was aware indeed that such a confession, given modestly and voluntarily under my own hand, and confirmed almost every week by a most excellent essay, would gain universal belief, and bring upon me the envy of the weak and malicious; but with all my penetration, I was far from foreseeing the many inconveniences to which it has subjected me.

My lodgings are crowded almost every morning with learned ladies of all ranks, who,

like so many queens of Sheba, are come from afar to hear the wisdom of Solomon: but it happens a little unfortunately, that though my answers to their questions give equal satisfaction with those of that monarch, yet the gold, and the spices, and the precious stones, which are the reward of his wisdom, are never so much as offered me.

IN the families which I visit abroad, a profound silence is observed as soon as I enter the room; so that instead of mixing in a free and easy conversation, I labour under all the disadvantages of a king, by being so unfortunately circumstanced as to have no equal.

I HAVE endeavoured by stratagem to remove these inconveniences, and have frequently written a very dull paper, that my companions may imagine they have caught me tripping, and be induced to converse with me as with other men: but they find out my design, and are so far from applying to me the *aliquando bonus dormitat Homerus*, that they regard me as a prodigy wherever I am seen. Mrs. Fitz-Adam indeed, who is less in awe of me than perhaps I would sometimes chuse, and who is of a communicative disposition, never fails to inform

inform me how the world goes on : she also encourages her maid Betty (who is a very knowing body in all family concerns) to bestow upon me, as she waits at table, her whole stock of intelligence ; which if I had a mind to be personal, would contribute greatly to the entertainment of these papers. I ought not to conceal that I owe the freedom with which this girl treats me, to the small opinion she has conceived of my parts ; having been often urged by her to turn the WORLD into a newspaper, for that then there would be truth in it, and something worth reading.

AT the coffee-houses I am still more perplexed than in private families : for as every man there is a politician, and as I have incautiously declared in print that I am a consummate master of that science, I am surrounded at my entrance by all the company in the room, and questioned by twenty voices at once on the state of public affairs. I am drawn into an ambuscade with general Braddock, and kept in close confinement with admiral Byng. Russia and Prussia, though our very good friends and allies, have declared war upon my quiet, and the national Militia has beaten me out of doors.

doors. To plead ignorance upon these occasions would be highly unbecoming a lover of truth, who has given it under his hand that he knows every thing; and to discover all I know, might, as matters stand at present, be a little imprudent. I am therefore a silent hearer of all the questions that are asked me, till having tired them with my taciturnity, I am suffered to escape.

To remedy this inconvenience, and as I am a great walker, I now and then take a stroll to the coffee-houses about Moor-fields and Cripplegate, where, if not my name, my person at least is unknown. At these places I have the good fortune of being an uninterrupted hearer of all that passes; and I cannot sufficiently express the pleasure I receive at seeing so many worthy tradesmen and mechanics met together every evening for the good of their country, and each of them laying down a system of politics, that would do honour to the sagacity of the ablest administration.

I AM tempted to take these walks rather oftener than is agreeable to me, to avoid certain inconveniences at home, which my wonderful abilities are almost continually subject-
ing

ing me to. The political writers are at present a very numerous body ; and as they cannot but take notice that I am making no pecuniary advantage of my great knowledge in public affairs, and are thoroughly sensible that a very small part of it would make a rich figure in a twelve-penny pamphlet, they are continually teasing me (according to the school-boy's phrase) for a little sense : but whatever sense the readers of those pamphlets may chance to find in them, I can truly assure them that it is none of mine. The constituents of boroughs are also very importunate with me for letters of instruction to their several members : but though I entirely approve of this custom, and think it highly necessary that every gentleman in parliament should be instructed by his constituents in the true interest of his country, yet I beg to be excused from meddling with such matters, and content myself with dismissing the said constituents with one word of advice, which is, that in all their remonstrances to their members, they would touch as slightly as possible upon the grievance of corruption ; it being, in my private opinion, quarrelling with their bread and butter.

To

To ballance all this weight of inconveniences, I have nothing but a little vanity to throw into the scale : for to confess a very serious truth, the happiness I enjoy is more owing to my great virtue, than my great knowledge ; and were it not for my good-will to mankind, who will not suffer themselves to be instructed by any other hand, I would part with my wisdom at a very easy price, and be as ignorant as the best of them.

THE value of every acquisition is only to be estimated by its use ; and everybody knows, that in the commerce with the world, an ounce of cunning is worth a pound of sense. I am sorry to say it, but the whistle, the top, the hobby-horse and the raree-show, have administered more delight to my boyish days (for I have been a boy as well as others) than all the treasures of learning and philosophy have done to my riper years. Those pleasures, in time, gave way to others of a higher nature ; and the facetious Mr. Punch took his turn to entertain me. The theatres at last attracted all my attention. There, while my imagination was cheated, and real kings and queens, in all the magnificence of royalty, seemed to
be

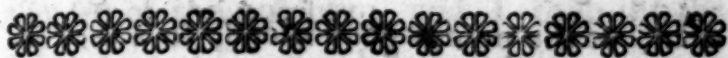
be exhibiting themselves to my view, my delight was inexpressible. But reason and knowledge soon combining against me, shewed me that all was deception ; and in conjunction with a demon, called taste, suggested to me at one time the weakness of the performance, and at another the incapacity of the actors, till in the end, nothing but a Shakespear and a Garrick had power to entertain me.

THUS driven by too much refinement from all the pleasures of youth, I had recourse to those deep and profound studies, that have since made me the object of my own wonder, and the astonishment of mankind. But alas ! how ineffectual and unsatisfying are all human acquisitions ! The abilities that will forever make my memory revered, are robbing me of my enjoyment ; and besides the evils that I have already enumerated, I am regretting in the best company that I cannot enjoy the solidity of my own thoughts, and am hardly to be persuaded that there is any thing worth reading, but what I write myself.

A LITTLE learning (as Mr. Pope observes) is a dangerous thing. Let me add from experience, that too much is a fatal one. And indeed

deed it seems the peculiar happiness of the present age to chime in with these sentiments: insomuch that it is hoped and expected of the rising generation, that they will be so trained up, as to suffer no inconveniences from any learning at all. The pleasures of childhood will then be constantly secured to them, and, with ignorance for their guide, they may take their pilgrimage from the cradle to the grave, through a constant road of delight.

SAMPSON was destroyed by his own strength: and the wisdom of Adam Fitz-Adam, like that of Solomon of old, is only vanity and vexation.



NUMB. 195. THURSDAY, Sept. 23, 1756.

— Generosius

Perire quærens, nec muliebriter

Expavit ensem.

HOR.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

TO a well-disposed mind there can be no greater satisfaction than the knowledge that one's labours for the good of the public have been crowned with success. This, sir, is remarkably the case of your paper of Sept. the 9th. on Suicide; a fashionable rage, which I hope you will proceed to expose; and I do not doubt but you will be as famous for rooting out what I may be allowed to call *single combat*, or the humour of fighting with one's self, as your predecessor the Tatler was for exploding the ridiculous custom of duels. The pleasantry of your essay on the reigning mode of voluntary deaths, has preserved to a little

little neighbourhood a very hospitable gentleman, to the poor a good friend, to a very deserving son and daughter a tender parent, and has saved the person himself from a very foolish exit. This character, sir, which perhaps from a natural partiality I may have drawn a little too amiably, I take to be my own; and not to trouble you with the history of a man who has nothing remarkable belonging to him, I will only let you into what is so far necessary, as that I am a gentleman of about fifty, have a moderate estate in very good condition, have seen a great deal of the world, and without being weary of it, live chiefly in the country with children whom I love. You will be curious to know what could drive my thoughts to so desperate a resolution, when I tell you farther, that I hate gaming, have buried my wife, and have no one illness. But alas! sir, I am extremely *well-born*: Pedigree is my distemper; and having observed how much the mode of self-murder prevails among people of rank, I grew to think that there was no *living without killing* one's self. I reflected how many of my great ancestors had fallen in battle, by the axe, or in duels, according as
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the turn of the several ages in which they lived, disposed of the nobility; and I thought the descendant of so many heroes must contrive to perish by means as violent and illustrious. What a disgrace, thought I, for the great grandson of Mowbrays, Veres and Beauchamps to die in a good old age of a fever! I blushed whenever I cast my eyes on our genealogy in the little parlour—I determined to shoot myself. It is true, no man ever had more reluctance to leave the world; and when I went to clean my pistols, every drop of Mowbray blood in my veins ran as cold as ice. As my constitution is good and hearty, I thought it would be time enough to *die suddenly* twenty or thirty years hence; but happening about a month ago to be near choaked by a fish-bone, I was alarmed for the honour of my family, and have been ever since *preparing for death*. The letter to be left on my table (which indeed cost me some trouble to compose, as I had no reason to give for my *sudden resolution*) was written out fair, when I read your paper; and from that minute I have changed my mind; and though it should be
ever

ever so great a disgrace to my family, I am resolved to live as long and as happily as I can.

You will no doubt, good sir, be encouraged from this example to pursue the reformation of this contagious crime. Even in the small district where I live, I am not the only instance of the propensity to such a catastrophe. The lord of the manor, whose fortune indeed is much superior to mine, though there is no comparison in the antiquity of our families, has had the very same thought. He is turned of sixty-seven, and is devoured by the stone and gout. In a dreadful fit of the former, as his physician was sitting by his bed-side, on a sudden his lordship ceased roaring, and commanded his relations and chaplain to withdraw, with a composure unusual to him even in his best health; and putting on the greatest appearance of philosophy, or what, if the chaplain had staid, would have been called resignation, he commanded the doctor to tell him, if his case was really desperate. The physician, with a slow profusion of latinized evasions, endeavoured to elude the question, and to give him some glimmerings of hope,
that

that there might be a chance that the extremity of the pain would occasion a degree of fever, that might not be mortal in itself, but which, if things did not come to a crisis soon, might help to carry his lordship off. “I understand you by “G—d,” says his lordship, with great tranquility and a few more oaths; “Yes, d—n “you, you want to kill me with some of your “confounded distempers; but I’ll tell you “what, I only asked you, because if I can’t “possibly live, I am determined to kill myself; for rot me! if it shall ever be said “that a man of my quality died of a cursed “natural death. There, tell Boman to give you “your fee, and bid him bring me my pistols.” However, the fit abated, and the neighbourhood is still waiting with great impatience to be *surprized* with an account of his lordship’s having shot himself.

HOWEVER, Mr. Fitz-Adam, extensive as the service is which you may render to the community by abolishing this heathenish practice, I think in some respects it is to be treated with tenderness; in one case always to be tolerated. National courage is certainly not at high-water mark: what if the notion

of the dignity of self-murder should be indulged till the end of the war? A man who has resolution enough to kill himself, will certainly never dread being killed by any body else. It is the privilege of a *free-dying Englishman*, to chuse his death: if any of our high-spirited notions are cramped, it may leaven our whole fund of valour; and while we are likely to have occasion for all we can exert, I should humbly be of opinion, that you permitted self-murder till the peace, upon this condition, that it should be dishonourable for any man to kill himself, till he had found that no Frenchman was brave enough to perform that service for him.

INDEED the very celebration of this mystery has been transacted hitherto in a manner somewhat mean, and unworthy people of fashion. No tradesman could hang himself more feloniously than our very nobles do. There is none of that open defiance of the laws of their country, none of that contempt for what the world may think of them, which they so properly wear on other occasions. They steal out of the world from their own closets, or before their servants are up in a morning.

morning. They leave a miserable apology behind them, instead of sitting up all night drinking, till the morning comes for dispatching themselves. Unlike their great originals, the Romans, who had reduced self-murder to a system of good-breeding, and used to *send cards* to their acquaintance to notify their intention. Part of the duty of the week in Rome was to *leave one's name* at the doors of such as were starving themselves. Particular friends were *let in*; and if very intimate, it was even expected that they should use some common-place phrases of dissuasion. I can conceive no foundation for our shabby way of bolting into t'other world, but that obsolete law which inflicts a cross-road and a stake on self-executioners: a most absurd statute; nor can I imagine any penalty that would be effectual, unless one could condemn a man who had killed himself to be brought to life again. Somewhere indeed I have read of a successful law for restraining this crime. In some of the Grecian states, the women of fashion incurred the anger of Venus—I quite forget upon what occasion; perhaps for little or none: goddesses in those days were scarce less whimsical

fical than their fair votaries—Whatever the cause was, she inspired them with a fury of self-murder. The legislature of the country, it seems, thought the resentment of the deity a little arbitrary; and to put a stop to the practice, devised an expedient, which one should have thought would have been very inadequate to the evil. They ordered the beautiful bodies of the lovely delinquents to be hung up naked by one foot in the public squares. How the fair offenders came to think this attitude unbecoming, or why they imagined any position that discovered all their charms, could be so, is not mentioned by historians; nor, at this distance of time, is it possible for us moderns to guess: certain it is, that the penalty put a stop to the barbarous custom.

BUT what shall one say to those countries, which not only allow this crime, but encourage it, even in that part of the species, whose softness demands all protection, and seems most abhorrent from every thing sanguinary and fierce? We know there are nations, where the magistrate gravely gives permission to the ladies to accompany their husbands into the
other

other world, and where it is reckoned the greatest profligacy for a widow not to demand leave to burn herself alive. Were this fashion once to *take* here, I tremble to think what havoc it would occasion. Between the natural propensity to suicide, and the violence of conjugal engagements, one should not see such a thing as a lozenge, or a widow. Adieu jointures ! adieu those soft resources of the brave and necessitous ! What unfortunate relict but would prefer being buried alive to the odious embraces of a second passion ? Indeed, Mr. Fitz-Adam, you must keep a strict eye on our fair country-women. I know one or two, who already wear pocket pistols ; which, considering the tenderness of their natures, can only be intended against their own persons. And this article leads me naturally to the only case, in which, as I hinted above, I think self-murder always to be allowed. The most admired death in history is that of the incomparable Lucretia, the pattern of her sex, and the eventual foundress of Roman liberty. As there never has been a lady since that time, in her circumstances, but what has imitated her example, I think, sir, I may pronounce the

case immutably to be excepted: and when Mr. Fitz-Adam, with that success and glory which always has and must attend his labours, has decried the savage practice in vogue, I am persuaded he will declare that she is not only excusable, but that it is impossible any woman should live after having been ravished.

I am,

SIR,

Your truly obliged

humble servant,

and admirer,

H. M.

NUMB.



NUMB. 196. THURSDAY, Sept. 30, 1756.

IT is a vulgar notion, and worthy of the vulgar, for it is both false and absurd, that passionate people are the best-natured people in the world. *They are a little hasty, it is true; a trifle will put them in a fury; and while they are in that fury, they neither know nor care what they say or do: but then as soon as it is over, they are extremely sorry and penitent for any injury or mischief they did.* This panegyric on these choleric good-natured people, when examined and simplified, amounts in plain common sense and English to this; that they are good-natured when they are not ill-natured; and that when in their fits of rage they have said or done things that have brought them to jail or the gallows, they are extremely sorry for it. It is indeed highly probable that they are; but where is the reparation to those whose reputations, limbs, or lives they have either wounded or destroyed? This concern comes too late, and is only for themselves. Self-love was the cause of the injury, and is the only motive of the repentance.

HAD these furious people real good-nature, their first offence would be their last ; and they would resolve at all events never to relapse. The moment they felt their choler rising, they would enjoin themselves an absolute silence and inaction, and by that sudden check rather expose themselves to a momentary ridicule (which, by the way, would be followed by universal applause) than run the least risk of being irreparably mischievous.

I KNOW it is said in their behalf, that this impulse to wrath is constitutionally so sudden and so strong, that they cannot stifle it, even in its birth : but experience shews us, that this allegation is notoriously false ; for we daily observe that these stormy persons both can and do lay those gusts of passion, when awed by respect, restrained by interest, or intimidated by fear. The most outrageous furiouso does not give a loose to his anger in presence of his sovereign, or his mistress ; nor the expectant heir in presence of the peevish doctard from whom he hopes for an inheritance. The soliciting courtier, though perhaps under the strongest provocations, from unjust delays and broken promises, calmly swallows his un-
 availing

availing wrath, disguises it even under smiles, and gently waits for more favourable moments : nor does the criminal fly in a passion at his judge or his jury.

THERE is then but one solid excuse to be alledged in favour of these people ; and if they will frankly urge it, I will candidly admit it, because it points out its own remedy. I mean, let them fairly confess themselves mad, as they most unquestionably are : for what plea can those who are frantic ten times a day, bring against shaving, bleeding, and a dark room, when so many much more harmless mad-men are confined in their cells at Bedlam for being mad only once in a moon ? Nay, I have been assured by the late ingenious doctor Monro, that such of his patients who were really of a good-natured disposition, and who in their lucid intervals were allowed the liberty of walking about the hospital, would frequently, when they found the previous symptoms of their returning madness, voluntarily apply for confinement, conscious of the mischief which they might possibly do, if at liberty. If those who pretend not to be mad, but who really are so, had the same fund of good-

nature, they would make the same application to their friends, if they have any.

THERE is in the *Ménagiana* a very pretty story of one of these angry gentlemen, which sets their extravagancy in a very ridiculous light.

Two gentlemen were riding together, one of whom, who was a choleric one, happened to be mounted on a high-mettled horse. The horse grew a little troublesome, at which the rider grew very angry, and whipped and spurred him with great fury ; to which the horse, almost as wrong-headed as his master, replied with kicking and plunging. The companion, concerned for the danger, and ashamed of the folly of his friend, said to him coolly, *Be quiet, be quiet, and shew yourself the wiser of the two.*

THIS sort of madness, for I will call it by no other name, flows from various causes, of which I shall now enumerate the most general.

LIGHT unballasted heads are very apt to be overset by every gust, or even breeze of passion ; they appretiate things wrong, and think every thing of importance, but what really is so : hence those frequent and sudden transitions
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from silly joy to fillier anger, according as the present silly humour is gratified or thwarted. This is the never-failing characteristic of the uneducated vulgar, who often in the same half-hour, fight with fury, and shake hands with affection. Such heads give themselves no time to reason ; and if you attempt to reason with them, they think you rally them, and resent the affront. They are, in short, over-grown children, and continue so in the most advanced age. Far be it from me to insinuate, what some ill-bred authors have bluntly asserted, that this is in general the case of the fairest part of our species, whose great vivacity does not always allow them time to reason consequentially, but hurries them into testiness upon the least opposition to their will. But at the same time, with all the partiality which I have for them, and nobody can have more than I have, I must confess that in all their debates, I have much more admired the copiousness of their rhetoric, than the conclusiveness of their logic.

PEOPLE of strong animal spirits, warm constitutions, and a cold genius (a most unfortunate and ridiculous, though common compound)

pound) are most irascible animals, and very dangerous in their wrath. They are active, puzzling, blundering, and petulantly enterprising and persevering. They are impatient of the least contradiction, having neither arguments nor words to reply with ; and the animal part of their composition bursts out into furious explosions, which have often mischievous consequences. Nothing is too outrageous or criminal for them to say or do in these fits ; but as the beginning of their frenzy is easy discoverable by their glaring eyes, inflamed countenances, and rapid motions, the company, as conservators of the peace (which by the way, every man is, till the authority of a magistrate can be procured) should forcibly seize these madmen, and confine them in the mean time, in some dark closet, vault, or coal-hole.

MEN of nice honour, without one grain of common honesty (for such there are) are wonderfully combustible. The honourable is to support and protect the dishonest part of their character. The consciousness of their guilt makes them both sore and jealous.

THERE is another very irascible sort of human

man animals, whose madness proceeds from pride. These are generally the people, who having just fortunes sufficient to live idle and useless to society, create themselves gentlemen, and are scrupulously tender of the rank and dignity which they have not. They require the more respect, from being conscious that that they have no right to any. They construe every thing into a slight, ask explanations with heat, and misunderstand them with fury. *Who are you? What are you? Do you know who you speak to? I'll teach you to be insolent to a gentleman,* are their daily idioms of speech, which frequently end in assault and battery, to the great emolument of the Round-house and Crown-office.

I HAVE known many young fellows, who at their first setting out in the world, or in the army, have simulated a passion which they did not feel, merely as an indication of spirit, which word is falsely looked upon as synonymous with courage. They dress and look fierce, swear enormously, and rage furiously, seduced by that popular word, spirit. But I beg leave to inform these mistaken young gentlemen, whose error I compassionate, that

the true spirit of a rational being consists in cool and steady resolution, which can only be the result of reflection and virtue.

I AM very sorry to be obliged to own, that there is not a more irritable part of the species, than my brother authors. Criticism, censure, or even the slightest disapprobation of their immortal works, excite their most furious indignation. It is true indeed that they express their resentment in a manner less dangerous both to others and to themselves. Like incensed porcupines, they dart their quills at the objects of their wrath. The wounds given by these shafts are not mortal, and only painful in proportion to the distance from whence they fly. Those which are discharged (as by much the greatest numbers are) from great heights, such as garrets or four-pair-of-stair rooms, are puffed away by the wind, and never hit the mark; but those which are let off from a first or second floor, are apt to occasion a little smarting, and sometimes festering, especially if the party wounded be unsound.

OUR GREAT CREATOR has wisely given us passions, to rouse us into action, and to engage our gratitude to him by the pleasures they procure

procure us ; but at the same time he has kindly given us reason sufficient, if we will but give that reason fair play, to controul those passions ; and has delegated authority to say to them, as he said to the waters, “ Thus far shall ye go, and no farther.” The angry man is his own severest tormentor ; his breast knows no peace, while his raging passions are restrained by no sense of either religious or moral duties. What would be his case, if his unforgiving example (if I may use such an expression) were followed by his ALL-MERCIFUL MAKER, whose forgiveness he can only hope for, in proportion as he himself forgives and loves his fellow creatures ?



NUMB. 197. THURSDAY, *Octob.* 7, 1756.

IF we give credit to the vulgar opinion, or even to the assertions of some reputable authors both ancient and modern, poor human nature was not originally formed for keeping : every age has degenerated ; and from the fall of the first man, my unfortunate ancestor, our species

species has been tumbling on, century by century, from bad to worse, for about fix thousand years.

CONSIDERING this progressive state of deterioration, it is a very great mercy that things are no worse with us at present; since, geometrically speaking, the human ought by this time to have sunk infinitely below the brute and the vegetable species, which are neither of them supposed to have dwindled or degenerated considerably, except in a very few instances: for it must be owned that our modern oaks are inferior to those of Dodona, our breed of horses to that of the Centaurs, and our breed of fowls to that of the Phoenixes.

BUT is this really the case? Certainly not. It is only one of those many errors, which are artfully scattered by the designs of a few, and blindly adopted by the ignorance and folly of the many. The moving exclamations of—*these sad times! this degenerate age!* the affecting lamentations over *declining virtue* and *triumphant vice*, and the tender and final farewell bidden every day to unrewarded and discouraged public spirit, arts and sciences, are the common-place topics of the pride, the en-

vy and the malignity of the human heart, that can more easily forgive, and even commend, antiquated and remote, than bear cotemporary and contiguous merit. Men of these mean sentiments have always been the satyrists of their own, and the panegyrists of former times. They give this tone, which fools, like birds in the dark, catch by ear, and whistle all day long.

As it has constantly been my endeavour to root out, if I could, or if I could not, to expose the vices of the human heart, it shall be the object of this day's paper to examine this strange inverted entail of virtue and merit upwards, according to priority of birth, and seniority of age. I shall prove it to be forged, and consequently null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

If I loved to jingle, I would say that human nature has always been invariably the same, though always varying; that is, the same in substance, but varying in forms and modes, from many concurrent causes, of which perhaps we know but few. Climate, education, accidents, severally contribute to change those modes; but in all climates, and in all ages, we disco-

ver through them, the same passions, affections and appetites, and the same degree of virtues and vices.

THIS being unquestionably the true state of the case, which it would be endless to bring instances to prove from the histories of all times and of all nations, I shall by way of warning to the incautious, and of reproof to the designing, proceed to explain the reasons, which I have but just hinted at above, why the human nature of the time being, has always been reckoned the worst and most degenerate.

AUTHORS, especially poets, though great men, are, alas ! but men ; and like other men, subject to the weakneses of human nature, though perhaps in a less degree : but it is however certain that their breasts are not absolutely strangers to the passions of jealousy, pride and envy. Hence it is that they are very apt to measure merit by the century, to love dead authors better than living ones, and to love them the better, the longer they have been dead. The Augustan age is therefore their favourite æra, being at least seventeen hundred years distant from the present. That empe-

ror was not only a judge of wit, but, for an emperor, a tolerable performer too ; and Mæcenas, his first minister, was both a patron and a poet : he not only encouraged and protected, but fed and fattened men of wit at his own table, as appears from Horace : no small encouragement for panegyric. Those were times indeed for genius to display itself in ! It was honoured, tasted and rewarded. But now—*O tempora ! O mores !* One must however do justice to the authors, who thus declaim against their own times, by acknowledging that they are seldom the aggressors ; their own times have commonly begun with Them. It is their resentment, not their judgment (if they have any) that speaks this language. Anger and despair make them endeavour to lower that merit, which, till brought very low indeed, they are conscious they cannot equal.

THERE is another, and much more numerous set of much greater men, who still more loudly complain of the ignorance, the corruption, and the degeneracy of the present age. These are the consummate volunteer, but unregarded and unrewarded politicians, who at a modest computation amount to at least three

millions of souls in this political country, and who are all of them both able and willing to steer the great vessel of the state, and to take upon themselves the whole load of business, and burthen of *employments*, for the service of their dear country. The administration for the time being is always the worst, the most incapable, the most corrupt, that ever was, and negligent of every thing but their own interest. *Where are now your Cecils and your Walsinghams?* Those who ask that question could answer it, if they would speak out. *Themselves.* For they are all that, and more too.

I STEPT the other day, in order only to inquire how my poor country did, into a coffee-house, that is without dispute the seat of the soundest politics in this great metropolis, and sat myself down within ear-shot of the principal council table. Fortunately for me, the president, a person of age, dignity and becoming gravity, had just begun to speak. He stated with infinite perspicuity and knowledge the present state of affairs in other countries, and the lamentable situation of our own. He traced with his finger upon the table, by the help of
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some coffee which he had spilt in the warmth of his exordium, the whole course of the Ohio, and the boundaries of the Russian, Prussian, Austrian and Saxon dominions; foresaw a long and bloody war upon the continent, calculated the supplies necessary for carrying it on, and pointed out the best methods of raising them, which, for that very reason, he intimated would not be pursued. He wound up his discourse with a most pathetic peroration, which he concluded with saying, *Things were not carried on in this way in queen Elizabeth's days; the public was considered, and able men were consulted and employed. Those were days!* "Aye, sir, and nights too, "I presume (said a young fellow who stood "near him) some longer and some shorter, "according to the variation of the seasons; "pretty much like ours." Mr. President was a little surprized at the suddenness and pertness of this interruption, but recomposing himself, answered with that cool contempt that becomes a great man, "I did not mean astronomical "days, but political ones." The young fellow replied, "O then, sir, I am your servant," and went off in a laugh.

THUS

THUS informed and edified, I went off too, but could not help reflecting in my way, upon the singular ill-luck of this my dear country, which as long as ever I remember it, and as far back as I have read, has always been governed by the only two or three people, out of two or three millions, totally incapable of governing, and unfit to be trusted. But these reflections were soon interrupted by numbers of people, whom I observed crowding into a public house. Among them I discovered my worthy friend and taylor, that industrious mechanic, Mr. Regnier. I applied to him to know the meaning of that concourse; to which, with his usual humanity, he answered, "We are the master taylors, who are to meet to-night to consider what is to be done about our journeymen, who insult and impose upon us, to the great detriment of trade." I asked him whether under his protection I might slip in and hear their deliberations. He said yes, and welcome; for that they should do nothing to be ashamed of. I profited of this permission, and following him into the room, found a considerable number of these ingenious artists assembled, and waiting

waiting only for the arrival of my friend, who it seems was too considerable for business to begin without him. He accordingly took the lead, opened the meeting with a very handsome speech, in which he gave many instances of the insolence, the unreasonableness, and the exorbitant demands of the journeymen tailors, and concluded with observing, "that if the government minded any thing now-a-days but themselves, such abuses would not have been suffered; and had they been but attempted in queen Elizabeth's days, she would have *worked* them with a wit-ness." Another orator then rose up to speak; but as I was sure that he could say nothing better than what had just fallen from my worthy friend, I stole off unobserved, and was pursuing my way home, when in the very next street I discovered a much greater number of people (though by their dress of seemingly inferior note) rushing into another public house. As numbers always excite my curiosity, almost as much as they mutually do each other's passions, I crowded in with them, in order to discover the object of this meeting, not without some suspicion that this frequent

senate

senate might be composed of the journeymen taylors, and convened in opposition to that which I had just left. My suspicion was soon confirmed by the eloquence of a journeyman, a finisher I presume, who expatiated with equal warmth and dignity, upon the injustice and oppression of the master taylors, to the utter ruin of thousands of poor journeymen and their families ; and concluded with asserting, it was a shame that the government and the parliament did not take notice of such abuses ; and that had the master taylors done these things in queen Elizabeth's days, she would have *mastered* them with a vengeance, so she would."

I CONFESS I could not help smiling at this singular conformity of sentiments, and almost of expressions, of the master politicians, the master taylors, and the journeymen taylors. I am convinced that the two latter really and honestly believed what they said ; it not being in the least improbable that their understandings should be the dupes of their interests : but I will not so peremptorily answer for the interior conviction of the political orator ; though at the same time, I must do him the justice to say, he seemed

seemed full dull enough to be very much in earnest.

THE several scenes of this day suggested to me, when I got home, various reflections, which perhaps I may communicate to my readers in some future paper.



NUMB. 198. THURSDAY, OCT. 14, 1756.

Nemo in sese tentat descendere, nemo.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I Beg your advice and assistance to enable me to get rid of one of the most impertinent companions that ever existed. I have tried every art and contrivance in my power to free myself from his odious conversation ; the creature will press upon my retirement, and force himself upon me in spite of my teeth ; though the *tête a tête* is always the most shocking and unmannerly you can possibly conceive. The thing is always meddling in my affairs in a manner to be quite intolerable ; always setting them

them in such a light, as cannot fail to put me out of humour ; and teasing me with reflections that make me weary of my life. I am sure I could more easily bear the spiteful tongues of twenty witty females at a masquerade, than the impertinence of this animal for a quarter of an hour ; and with concern I find, that the more pains I take to free myself from him, the more troublesome he grows.

NOR do I complain only for my own sake, but for the sakes of almost the whole circle of my acquaintance, as well female as male, who in general are pestered in a most unreasonable manner by this saucy intruder, whom all are forced to admit, though so few care for his company, and against whose presumption no rank or dignity, no quality or profession, can defend them. He will force himself into the closet, hover about the bed, and penetrate through the thickest darkness into the deepest recess ; will travel with us by sea and land, and follow the wretch into banishment. In vain does the statesman hug himself in the success of his unjust schemes, or exult in the gratification of his ambition or revenge ;

venge; unawed by his power, this haughty companion will check his career of transport, by placing before his eyes the instability of his situation, and the consequences of his actions. In vain does the flirt or coxcomb, when alone, endeavour to recollect with pleasure the *badinage* of the day; the creature will disturb their most delightful reveries, and by the magic of his intervention, convert all the imaginary *agréments* into vanity, folly, and lost time. You cannot wonder then that so many avoid and fly him, and that the pannic spread by him should extend itself far and wide; nor can you be much amazed when I assure you, that it is no uncommon thing to see men of sense and courage fly from him without reason, and take refuge in those polite resorts, where dissipation, riot and luxury, secure them from his visits, which they only decline because it is unfashionable to converse with him. It is surprising what pains are continually taken, what contrivances have been used to get rid of this universal phantom. Some flatter him, some bully him, and some endeavour to impose upon him; but he never fails to detect their frauds, and to resent them with severity.

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THE beaus and fine gentlemen seem to revere and adore him, pouring forth libations of sweet water, and offering him the incense of perfumes; cloathing him in dresses, elegant and expensive as those of our lady of Loretto, practising every art of heathen or popish idolatry, even torturing themselves for his sake; but all with no manner of success; for the brute in return is as unsociable and disagreeable to the pretty creatures, as the most savage squire, or the most formal pedant; so that spite of their pretences, they are obliged to fly, as a plague, from what they appear most to admire. I cannot here omit a whimsical circumstance in this paradoxical character, that most people are reproached with loving him with the greatest partiality and fondness, and are greatly delighted to hear him praised, yet very few seek to come to the knowledge of him, or cultivate his acquaintance; nay, the greater part try all possible means to avoid encountering him.

OUR modern philosophers pretend by their systems to have silenced him, and by that means to have prevented his being troublesome to them or their acquaintance; but how fallacious

fallacious these pretences are, is plain from their avoiding all opportunities of being alone with him, and the confusion they express whenever by unavoidable necessity they are forced to it. Others, as he is a known enemy to the modern elegant tables, have exerted all the arts of the kitchen against him, lengthening the feast till midnight to keep him off; but, like the reckoning, he appears when the banquet is over, reproaching the bounteous host with his profusion, and the pampered guest with his wanton satiety: nay, so galling are his reprehensions, and so troublesome his intrusion, that there have not been wanting instances, even in high life, of those, who not being able to keep him off otherways, have called into their relief the halter, dagger and pistol, and fairly removed themselves into another world to get rid of him; though certain queer fellows pretend that they are bit, and that he has followed them even thither.

THE fair sex, though generally favourable to the impertinent, are so rudely attacked by this insolent intruder, that to keep him off, they have been obliged to call in to their assistance

the relief of routs, balls, assemblies, operas, gardens and cards; and all little enough for their protection. He might indeed pretend to some share of their favour, as, like themselves, he is a severe censurer of his acquaintance; but there is this difference in their management, that the ladies are generally fondest of fixing their censure on the innocent, and their adversary is a judge that condemns none but the guilty. The Buck and the Sot seem to be least affected by his importunity; as the one, from his natural insensibility, can attend to nothing, and the other is always asleep.

IN the city, those of the middling rank converse with him pretty familiarly; and the rich, to whom he might on some occasions prove troublesome, have a charm to keep him off. They place a number of bags, full of pieces of a particular metal, close together; or in their stead, some bits of paper inscribed with certain cabalistical characters, which, with a Midas-like touch, they can transmute into gold. By the help of this charm, though they do not entirely get rid of him, they become quite insensible to every thing he can suggest.

suggest. But as these materials are not always at hand, or are applied to other uses by the politer part of mankind, this magic is not properly understood or practiced at the other end of the town; though it is said that some particular persons there had tried it with a proper effect.

NOTWITHSTANDING all I have advanced of this impertinent visitor, I cannot help owning that some have attempted to insinuate a better opinion of him. A certain old gentleman, for recommending his acquaintance, got the title of a wise man; a name at present but of small consideration; and I am told that there never were but seven who were allowed that title. There are indeed some few persons of high rank of both sexes, that do vouchsafe to commune with him; but they are such sort of folks, as are hardly fit to converse with any but one another; and very happily, one is seldom pestered with them at places of polite association; scarce a man among them knowing how to make a bett, to drink his third bottle, or that has spirit to aspire at the reputation of a *bonne fortune*. The ladies of this class are also so unfit for the conversation of

the world, that not one in ten of them knows how to play a rubber at Whist, or dares to set down to a party at Bragg.

I HAVE now, sir, laid my complaints before you, and beg your advice how to get clear of my perplexity. My troublesome companion is, no doubt, too well known to you to require the insertion of his name; but as some of your readers (particularly females) may be subject to the frailty of forgetting their most intimate acquaintance, I will inform them, that this ghastly phantom that intrudes so impertinently upon all sorts of people, this creature that we so seldom know what to do with, and wish so heartily to get rid of, is no other than ONE'S SELF.

I am,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

TIMOTHY LOITER.

NUMB.



NUMB. 199. THURSDAY, *Octob.* 21, 1756.

AN extravagant passion for collecting flowers, and which obtained the name of *Tulipomania*, or Tulip madness, is said to have become not many years ago, the subject of a restrictive law in one of the most frugal countries in Europe.

INDEED few nations or ages are without their madnesses; and as it is remarked by physicians that every year has its peculiar disease, so we may observe that every country, in the course of less than half a century, has its peculiar *Mania*.

AT present the *Political Mania* is pretty violent in these kingdoms; but I believe, upon a little attention, that we shall find the *Genteel Mania* to have a long while extended itself with the most general influence among us.

THE mere word *Genteel* seems to have had so singular an efficacy in the very sound of it, as to have done more to the confounding all distinctions, and promoting a levelling prin-

ciple, than the philosophic reflections of the most profound teacher of republican maxims.

To do the *genteel* thing, to wear the *genteel* thing, a *genteel* method of education and living, and a *genteel* way of becoming either a knave or a bankrupt, has ruined as many once worthy families as a plague or a civil war, and rooted out of this country more real virtues than can be replanted in it for many centuries.

A SENSE of duties in our several relations is prodigiously *ungenteel*. It is the prerogative of this age to do every thing in the *genteelest* manner. And though our ancestors were good honest people, yet to be sure their notions were very *ungenteel*. Nothing now seems duller than their apothegms, and their reasoning is as unfashionable as the cut of their coats.

THE imitating every station above our own, seems to be the first principle of the *Genteel Mania*, and operates with equal efficacy upon the tenth cousin of a woman of quality, and her acquaintance who retails *Gentility* among her neighbours in the Borough.

So deeply are all ranks of people impressed with the *Genteel*, that Mrs. Betty is of opinion

on that routs would be very *genteel* in the kitchen ; and it is no surprizing thing for a Monmouth-street broker to assure a basket-woman that the old gown he would sell to her is *perfectly Genteel*.

THIS *genteel disease* shews itself under very different appearances. I have known a healthy young girl scarce a fortnight in town, but it has affected her voice, distorted her countenance, and almost taken away the use of her limbs, attended with a constant giddiness of the head, and a restlessness of being long in a place ; till at last, repeated colds caught at Vauxhall, a violent fever at a ridotto, something like a dropsy at a masquerade, and the small pox in succession, with a general desertion of admirers, have restored her to her senses, and her old aunts in the country.

FLORIO made a good figure in the university, as a sensible sober young fellow, and an excellent scholar ; till unluckily for him, a scheme to town inspired him with the notions of *Gentility*, usually contracted at the Shakespear, and a Bagnio. Instead of his once rational friendships at the seats of literature, his passion now was to enjoy the vanity of walking arm

in arm with right honourables in all public places ; to his former acquaintance (if it was sometimes impossible to avoid the meeting such disagreeable people) he scarce condescended a bow ; and nothing under the heir apparent of an earl could make him tolerably civil. In a short time he became at the taverns of the first fashion the principal judge of true relish, and the umpire of debates in every party at Whist. His equipage, house and liveries were the model of *Gentility*, to men who had less genius for invention, though more fortune than himself ; till having reduced the little patrimony left him by a frugal father, he was cured of the *Genteel* by a proper regimen in the Fleet.

DICK Ledger was a plain honest man ; his ancestors had been tradesmen for five generations, and to the fortune which they had already accumulated for him, Dick, by his industry, had added about ten thousand pounds ; when unfortunately the symptoms of the *Genteel Mania* appeared in the family. Mrs. Ledger's head was first turned, immediately after her paying a visit to a very distant relation of fashion at the other end of the town. Her daughter

daughter soon caught the infection; and it was unanimously determined by the voice of the whole family, notwithstanding Mr. Ledger's opinion to the contrary, that it was right for a woman in *her* situation to make *some* appearance; that it was Mr. Ledger's duty, if he had any regard for her and his children, to live a *little genteel*, and introduce his family properly into life. That it was very absurd in Mr. Ledger to think of making Tommy a soap-boiler, and that a lad of his parts should be brought up to some *genteel* profession. The result of these important deliberations was a coach and four horses, as many footmen, a fine seat in the country, and a town-house in Grosvenor-square for the residence of Mrs. Ledger.

TOMMY, after taking lodgings for one year in the politeſt college at Oxford, ſpending there five hundred pounds, and becoming a perfect adept in tennis, ſet out upon his travels under the care of a French valet de chambre, to learn the Norman accompliſhments at Caen: and at length, having left his modeſty at Paris, his ſobriety in Germany, his morality at Venice, and all religion at Rome, he return-

ed, neither fit for a soap-boiler nor a gentleman, with too much pride for the former, and too little improvement for the latter. The sum of all was, that the reputation of the young ladies became somewhat equivocal, and Mrs. Ledger herself was thought to be no better than she should be. Mr. Ledger soon after saw his name among the numerous list of bankrupts in the Gazette. However, by returning into the air of the city, he quickly grew better, but it is thought that Mrs. Ledger will never recover.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I HAVE a brother at Cambridge, who is a scholar, which I am not, because I am eldest. While he is writing a learned history of the fashions of the past ages in polite antiquity, I am here in town inventing new ones for the ornament of the present. He has studied whole volumes as big as church bibles, about the shape of the Roman shoes, the half-moons upon senatorial buskins, and the grasshopper *pompoons* worn by the ladies at Athens. Being
well

well acquainted with busts and coins, he has settled with great critical exactness the origin of head-dresses, and the chronology of perriwigs; and he says that he is now at last, after several years meditation and reading, able to convince the world that caps and lappets were invented by the Egyptians, and that the Greeks used paste in dressing the hair. As to myself, I am the first man who introduced the long walking-sticks. As soon as the public comes into my fashions I quit them, and generally have the distance of the smartest young fellows about town in the novelty of my habit. I intend to introduce roll-up stockings and high heels this winter: by the following winter, if the mode should take, then I shall wear no heels at all, and a pair of trunk hose like my grandfather's picture in our great hall in the country. An old gentleman, with whom I condescend now and then to converse (who by the by is my father) often remonstrates to me what a mad way of dressing I am got into. I answer that I wonder he should reprove me, when he himself is a fop but of twenty years standing: and as my acquaintance assure me that I have the *genteelest* fancy in the world,

pray now come and see me at George's (for you will easily know me) and tell me if you don't think so.

Yours,

NICHOLAS NOVEL.

ADVERTISEMENT.

“ THIS is to acquaint those who are inclined to encourage every *polite* attempt in this nation, that an Academy will shortly be opened at a proper distance from the city, calculated in the *genteelest taste* for the reception of persons who would chuse to be *fashionable*. None whose families are in trade will be admitted, but the *best* company only. The price of boarding is a hundred guineas a quarter, and every thing else in proportion. All personal accomplishments are taught in the same manner as abroad, and great care will be taken to inspire them with the *genteelest* sentiments upon all subjects, whether political, moral, or religious. As to the latter, the young gentlemen may be brought up in any way their friends think most convenient. Several

“ ral

“ral phaetons and curricles will be kept for
 “their amusement ; and as the conversation
 “of ladies is so necessary to form the *douceur*
 “of their manners, the *agremens* of such a so-
 “ciety will not be wanting. A gentleman,
 “who has studied under Mr. Hoyle, will
 “teach them to play at cards gratis.

“N. B. JUDGES, bishops, or any great
 “officers that happen to be a little awkward
 “in their address, may have an opportunity
 “of learning to dance privately, or shall be
 “waited upon at home, if they desire it.”



NUMB. 200. THURSDAY, OCT. 28, 1756.

Δεινόν τι τὸ μηχανόεν

Τέχνας ὑπὲρ ἐλπίδ' ἔχων.

SOPH.

Stabant et Parii lapides, spirantia signa. VIRG.

I AM indebted to a very ingenious corre-
 spondent at Cambridge for the following
 ode, which in justice to its merit, and for the
 entertainment of those of my readers who have
 a true taste for poetical composition, I have
 taken the first opportunity to make public.

A N

A N
O D E
O N
S C U L P T U R E.

*L*ED by the muse, my step pervades
 The sacred haunts, the peaceful shades,
 Where ART and SCULPTURE reign :
 I see, I see, at their command,
 The living stones in order stand,
 And marble breathe through ev'ry vein !
 TIME breaks his hostile scythe ; he sighs
 To find his pow'r malignant fled ;
 " And what avails my dart, he cries,
 " Since these can animate the dead ?
 " Since wak'd to mimic life, again in stone
 " The patriot seems to speak, the heroe frown ?"

There VIRTUE'S silent train are seen,
 Fast fix'd their looks, erect their mien.

Lo!

*Lo! while, with more than stoic soul,
 The * ATTIC SAGE exhausts the bowl,
 A pale suffusion shades his eyes,
 Till by degrees the marble dies!
 See there the injur'd § POET bleed!
 Ah! see he droops his languid head!
 What starting nerves, what dying pain,
 What horror freezes ev'ry vein! [shew
 These are thy works, O SCULPTURE! thine to
 In rugged rock a feeling sense of woe.*

*Yet not alone such themes demand
 The PHYDIAN stroke, the DÆDAL hand;
 I view with melting eyes
 A softer scene of grief display'd,
 While from her breast the duteous maid
 Her INFANT SIRE with food supplies.
 In pitying stone she weeps, to see
 His squalid hair, and galling chains;
 And trembling, on her bended knee,
 His hoary head her hand sustains;*

While

* Socrates, who was condemned to die by poison.

§ Seneca, born at Corduba, who according to Pliny, was orator, poet, and philosopher. He bled to death in the bath.

*While ev'ry look, and sorrowing feature prove,
How soft her breast, how great her filial love.*

*Lo! there the wild || ASSYRIAN QUEEN,
With threat'ning brow, and frantic mien!
Revenge! revenge! the marble cries,
While fury sparkles in her eyes.
Thus was her awful form beheld,
When BABYLON's proud sons rebell'd;
She left the woman's vainer care,
And flew with loose dishevell'd hair;
She stretch'd her hand, imbru'd in blood,
While pale Sedition trembling stood;
In sudden silence, the mad croud obey'd
Her awful voice, and Stygian Discord fled!*

*With hope, or fear, or love, by turns,
The marble leaps, or shrinks, or burns,
As SCULPTURE waves her hand:*

The

|| Semiramis, cum ei circa cultum capitis
fui occupatae nunciatum esset Babylonem de-
fecisse; alterâ parte crinium adhuc solutâ
protinus ad eam expugnandam cucurrit: nec
prius decorem capillorum in ordinem quam
tantam urbem in potestatem suam redegit:
quocircâ statua ejus Babylone posita est, &c.
Val. Max. de Ira.

*The varying passions of the mind,
 Her faithful handmaids are assign'd,
 And rise or fall by her command.
 When now life's wasted lamps expire,
 When sinks to dust this mortal frame,
 She, like PROMETHEUS, grasps the fire ;
 Her touch revives the lambent flame ;
 While, Phœnix-like, the statesman, bard, or sage,
 Spring fresh to life, and breathe through ev'ry age.*

*Hence, where the organ full and clear,
 With loud hosannas charms the ear,
 Behold (a prism within his hands)
 Absorb'd in thought, great || NEWTON stands !
 Such was his solemn, wonted state,
 His serious brow, and musing gait,
 When, taught on eagle-wings to fly,
 He trac'd the wonders of the sky ;
 The chambers of the sun explor'd,
 Where tints of thousand hues are stor'd ;
 Whence ev'ry flow'r in painted robes is drest,
 And varying IRIS steals her gaudy vest.*

Here

|| A noble statue of Sir Isaac Newton, erected in Trinity-college chapel, by doctor Smith.

*Here, as DEVOTION, heav'nly queen,
 Conducts her best, her fav'rite train,
 At NEWTON'S shrine they bow ;
 And while with raptur'd eyes they gaze,
 With VIRTUE'S purest vestal rays,
 Behold their ardent bosoms glow !
 Hail, mighty mind ! Hail, awful name !
 I feel inspir'd my lab'ring breast ;
 And lo ! I pant, I burn for fame !
 Come, SCIENCE, bright ethereal guest,
 Oh come, and lead thy meanest, humblest son,
 Through WISDOM'S arduous paths, to fair re-
 [nown !*

*Could I to one faint ray aspire,
 One spark of that celestial fire,
 The leading Cynosure, that glow'd
 While SMITH explor'd the dark abode,
 Where WISDOM sat on NATURE'S shrine,
 How great my boast ! what praise were mine !
 Illustrious sage ! who first could'st tell
 Wherein the pow'rs of MUSIC dwell ;
 And ev'ry magic chain untie,
 That binds the soul of HARMONY !
 To THEE, when mould'ring in the dust,
 To THEE shall swell the breathing bust :
 Shall here (for this reward thy merits claim)
 " Stand next in place to NEWTON, as in fame."*



NUMB. 201. THURSDAY, Nov. 4, 1756.

OF all the improvements in polite conversation, I know of nothing that is half so entertaining and significant as the *double entendre*. It is a figure in rhetoric, which owes its birth, as well as its name, to our inventive neighbours the French; and is that happy art, by which persons of fashion may communicate the loosest ideas under the most innocent expressions. The ladies have adopted it for the best reason in the world: they have long since discovered, that the present fashionable display of their Persons is by no means a sufficient hint to the men that they mean any thing more than to attract their admiration: the *double entendre* displays the Mind in an equal degree, and tells us from what motives the lure of beauty is thrown out. It is an explanatory note to a doubtful text, which renders the meaning so obvious, that even the dullest reader cannot possibly mistake it. For though the *double entendre* may sometimes admit

mit of a moral interpretation, as well as a wanton one, it is never intended to be understood but one way; and he must be a simple fellow indeed, and totally unacquainted with *good company*, who does not take it as it was meant.

BUT it is one thing to invite the attacks of men, and another to yield to them; and it is by no means a necessary implication, that because a lady chuses to dress and talk like a woman of the town, she must needs act like one. I will be bold to assert that the contrary happens at least ten or a dozen times within the space of a twelvemonth; nay, I am almost inclined to believe, that when an enterprising young fellow, who, from a lady's displaying her beauties in public to the utmost excess of the mode, and suiting her language to her dress, is apt to fancy himself sure of her at a *tête à tête*, it is not above four to one but he may meet with a repulse. Those liberties indeed, which are attended with no ruinous contingences, he may reasonably claim, and expect always to be indulged in; as the refusal of them would argue the highest degree of prudery, a foible, which in this age of nature

ture and freedom, the utmost malice of the world cannot lay to the charge of a woman of condition : but it does not absolutely follow that because she is good-humoured enough to grant every liberty but one, she must refuse nothing.

It may possibly be objected, that there is neither good-breeding nor generosity in a lady's inviting a man to a feast, when she only means to treat him with the garnish : but she is certainly mistress of her own entertainment, and has a right to keep those substantials under cover, which she has no mind he should help himself to. A hungry glutton may (as the phrase is) eat her out of house and home ; and if he will not be satisfied with whips and creams, he may carry his voraciousness to more liberal tables. A young lady of œconomy will admit no such persons to her entertainments ; they are a set of robust unmannerly creatures, who are perpetually intruding themselves upon the hospitable and the generous, and tempting them to those costly treats, that have in the end undone them, and compelled them ever after to keep ordinaries for their support.

FROM

FROM this consideration, it were heartily to be wished that the ladies could be prevailed upon to give fewer invitations in public places ; since the most frugal of them cannot always answer for her own œconomy : and it is well known that the profusion of one single entertainment has compelled many a beautiful young creature to hide herself from the world for whole months after. As for married ladies indeed, who have husbands to bear the burden of such entertainments, and rich widows who can afford them, something may be said ; but while gluttons may be feasted liberally at such tables, and while there are public ordinaries in almost every parish of this metropolis, a single lady may beg to be excused.

BUT to return particularly to my subject. The *double entendre* is at present so much the taste of all genteel companies, that there is no possibility either of being polite or entertaining without it. That it is easily learnt is the happy advantage of it ; for as it requires little more than a mind well stored with the most natural ideas, every young lady of fifteen may be thoroughly instructed in the rudiments

rudiments of it from her book of novels, or her waiting-maid. But to be as knowing as her mamma in all the refinements of the art, she must keep the very best company, and frequently receive lessons in private from a male instructor. She should also be careful to minute down in her pocket-book the most shining *sentiments* that are toasted at table; that when her own is called for, she may not be put to the blush from having nothing to say that would occasion a modest woman to blush for her. Of all the modern inventions to enliven conversation, and promote freedom between the sexes, I know of nothing that can compare with these *sentiments*; and I may venture to affirm, without the least flattery to the ladies, that they are by no means inferior to the men in the happy talent of conveying the archest ideas imaginable in the most harmless words, and of enforcing those ideas by the most significant looks.

THERE is indeed one inconvenience attending the *double entendre*, which I do not remember to have heard taken notice of. This inconvenience is the untoward effect that it is apt to have upon certain discreet gentlewomen,

men, who pass under the denomination of old maids. As these grave personages are generally remarked to have the quickest conceptions, and as they have once been shocked by what they call the indelicacy of this figure, they are ever afterwards carrying it in their minds, and converting every thing they hear into wantonness and indecency. To ask them what o'clock it is, may be an ensnaring question; to pull off your gloves in their presence is beginning to undress; to make them a bow may be stooping for an immodest purpose, and to talk of bed-time is too gross to be endured. I have known one of these ladies to be so extremely upon her guard, that having dropt her gold watch-case in a public walk, and being questioned by a gentleman who took it up, whether it was hers or not, was so alarmed at the indecency of throwing aside her apron to examine, that she flew from him with precipitation, suffering him to put it into his pocket, and go fairly off with it.

THIS *false modesty*, which most evidently owes its birth to the *double entendre*, is a degree of impudence that the other cannot match. The possessors of it have unfortunately discovered

vered that the most immodest meanings may be couched under very innocent expressions ; and having been once put into a loose train of thinking, they are perpetually revolving in their minds every gross idea that words can be made to imply. They would not pronounce the names of certain persons of their acquaintance for the whole world, and are almost shocked to death at the sight of a woman with child, as it suggests to their minds every idea of sensuality.

It will doubtless be very astonishing to the reader to be told, that even the purity of my own writings has not at all times exempted me from the censure of these maiden gentlewomen. The Nankin breeches of poor Patrick the footman, in number 130 of these papers, have given inconceivable offence. The word breeches, it seems, is so outrageously indecent, that a modest woman cannot bring herself to pronounce it, even when alone. I must therefore in all future impressions of this work, either dismiss the said Patrick from his service, or direct him to wait upon his ladies without any breeches at all. Other complaints of the like nature have also been brought against me,

which, conscious as I am of the purity of my intentions, have piqued me not a little. It is from these complaints that I have entered at present upon the subject of this paper, which I cannot conclude without expressing some little dislike to the *double entendre*; since with all the pleasantry and merriment it occasions, it has produced this *false modesty*, which, in my humble opinion, is *impudence* itself.



NUMB. 202. THURSDAY, Nov. 11, 1756.

*Th' adorning Thee with so much art
Is but a needless skill.* COWLEY.

IT is a general observation, that the character and disposition of every man may, in some degree, be guessed at from the formation and turn of his features; or, in other words, that the face is an index of the mind. This remark is certainly not without foundation; nevertheless, as men do not make themselves, but yet are masters of their wills and actions, frequent instances happen, in which

which this rule is found to fail, and appearances contradict reality.

I HAVE often thought that a surer way might be found of discovering the secret notions and bias of each person ; and that if instead of consulting the physiognomy, we were to have recourse to such things as are the immediate objects of choice and fancy, we should arrive at a truer knowledge of the person who adopts them. The best clue we can lay hold of for this purpose is, in my opinion, the different modes of covering and adorning the body, or whatever is comprised under the idea of DRESS. The Spanish proverb says, " Tell me what books a man reads, and " what company he keeps, and I will tell you " what manner of man he is." It may be said with equal propriety, tell me how such a person *dresses*, and I will tell you what he is. In fact, nature herself, by the appurtenances and ornaments which she bestows on different animals, seems to shadow and point out their latent qualities. Who can see the peacock strut and spread his gaudy train, without conceiving an idea of the pride and vanity of that sop among birds ? The lion, wrapped up

in the majesty of his mane, fills us with notions of the grandeur and nobleness of his nature. It is the same with men. What nature gives to irrational animals, man, by the help of art, supplies to himself; and in the choice and arrangement of his DRESS, speaks his real notions and sentiments.

IN a theatre, which is the glass of fashion, and the picture of the world, it is well known that a strict attention is always paid to what is called the *dress* of the characters. The miser has his thread-bare coat; the fop his grey powder, solitaire, and red heel: each character hanging out a sign, as it were, in his dress, which proclaims to the audience the nature of his part, even before he utters a word. The impression which this outward appearance makes upon the mind, is so strong, that states and governments have availed themselves of it for good and wise purposes. It is certain that the ignorant and vulgar part of mankind are most easily captivated by what strikes the sight. Love, it is said, enters in at the eyes: and I am apt to think, that most of the other passions enter into the mind through the same passage. Hence the necessity of applying

plying to this sense ; and hence the origin of DRESS, and the pomp of kings, magistrates, and others, calculated (according to Milton) only to

Dazzle the croud, and set them all agape.

AMONG the numberless instances that might be brought in proof of this assertion, I have however remarked one, in which the means do not seem to me to answer the end proposed, or at least that ought to be proposed by them. The instance I mean is the regimentals now worn in the army. One would imagine from contemplating the profession of a soldier, that whatever could most contribute towards giving an intrepid masculine air and look, whatever could impress on the spectator's mind an idea of courage, fortitude and strength, would be deemed most proper to furnish out the appearance of those, who devote themselves to all the toils, fatigues, and dangers of war. And yet, who will say that our troops speak their profession in any degree by their dress? The red, indeed, in which they are clothed, as it conveys the idea of blood, and appears as if stained with the colours of their

trade, is most certainly proper. But what shall we say for all the other articles of their dress? Who that sees any of them so elaborately and splendidly equipped in all their trappings, would not be more apt to think by their appearance, that they were going to grace some public festival, or to assist at some joyful ceremony, than that they were men set apart to combat with every hardship, and to stand in the rough front of war? When Cræsus, the Lydian king, displayed his heaps of treasure to Solon, the philosopher told him, that whoever had more *iron*, would soon be master of all his *gold*; intimating that shew and pomp were of no account, compared to what was really useful, and that riches in themselves were of no value. To adapt this to our present purpose, would not a sort of dress, calculated to help and defend the wearer, or annoy the enemy, be more serviceable than all the pride and tinsel that runs through the army from the general to the private man?

THE ancient rude Britons seem to have had a better taste, or at least, more meaning in their method of adorning themselves, than their polished descendants. As they were all soldiers,

foldiers, Cæsar tells us, they used to paint their bodies in such a manner as they conceived would make them appear terrible to their foes. Instead of powdering and curling their hair, they wore it loose, like the old Spartans, who always combed it down to its full extent; and as the admirable author of Leonidas expresses it, “clothed their necks with terror.” For my own part, I cannot look on our troops, powdered and curled with so much exactness, without applying Falstaff’s expression, and thinking indeed that they are *food for powder*. Nor can I behold the lace, and all the waste of finery in their clothing, but in the same light that I survey the silver plates and ornaments of a coffin: indeed I am apt to impute their going to battle so trim and adorned, to the same reason that the fine lady painted her cheeks just before she expired, that she might not be frightful when she was dead. To ask a plain question, where is the need of all this finery? “Will it (as Falstaff says of honour) “set a leg? No. Or an arm? No. Or heal “the grief of a wound? No. It has then no “skill in surgery, and is a mere scutcheon.”

WHEN I consider the brilliant, but defence-

less state, in which our troops go to battle, I cannot help wondering at the extraordinary courage they have always shewn ; and am pleased to find that they unite in their persons the ancient and modern signification of the word *brave*, which implied formerly only finery or ornament, but in its present acceptation, means courage and resolution. They are indeed both brave and fine ; brave as it is possible for *men* to be, but finer than it is necessary for *soldiers* to be ; so that what Cæsar said of *his* troops, may with great justice be applied to *ours*, *Etiam unguentatos bene pugnare posse*. In spite of their finery and perfumes, they are brave fellows, and will fight.

I HAVE been led to consider this subject by a short copy of verses, lately sent me by a friend, presenting a picture of a modern warrior preparing for battle. Homer and Virgil described *their* heroes ARMING for the fight ; but my friend exhibits *his* hero DRESSING for the fight ; it being observable, he says, that our military gentlemen use at present no more armour in the day of battle, than they do when they go to church, or pay a visit to a mistress.

THE

THE
MODERN WARRIOR.

[advance,

THE trumpet sounds. To war the troops
Adorn'd and trim—like females to the dance.
 Proud of the summons to display his might,
 The gay **LOTHARIO** dresses for the fight.
 Studious in all the splendor to appear, [war!
 Pride, pomp, and circumstance of **GLORIOUS**
His well-turn'd limbs the different garbs infold,
Form'd with nice art, and glitt'ring all with gold.
Across his breast the silken SASH is ty'd,
 Behind the **SHOULDER-KNOT** displays its pride;
 Glitt'ring with **LACE**, the **HAT** adorns his head,
 Grac'd and distinguish'd by the smart **COCKADE**:
Conspicuous badge! which only heroes wear,
Ensign of war, and fav'rite of the Fair.
 The graceful **QUEUE** his braided tresses binds,
And ev'ry hair in its just rank confines.
 Each taper leg the snowy **GUÊTRES** deck,
 And the bright **GORGET** dangles from his neck.

Dress'd cap-a-pee, all lovely to the fight,
 Stands the GAY WARRIOR, and expects the fight.
 Rages the war; fell SLAUGHTER stalks around,
 And stretches thousands breathless on the ground:
 Down sinks LOTHARIO, sent by one dire blow,
 A WELL-DRESS'D HEROE, to the shades below.
 Thus the young VICTIM, pamper'd and elate,
 To some resplendent fane is led in state,
 With GARLANDS crown'd, through shouting
 crouds proceeds,
 " And dress'd in fatal POMP, MAGNIFICENT-
 " LY bleeds."



NUMB. 203. THURSDAY, Nov. 18, 1756.

WHILST the generality of *moralists*
 maintain the utility of the passions, the
 generality of men complain of their inconve-
 niency. For though speculation can easily
 confine them to proper objects, restrain them
 within proper bounds, and make them assistant
 and subservient to the greatest purposes, expe-
 rience finds them impatient of the rein, and
 we

we are hurried by them into every kind of extravagance. In like manner batchelors lay down incomparable rules for the government of a wife, which the husband, whose province is *Οὐ γράσις ἀλλὰ πράξις*, not theory but practice, may find extremely defective in the day of trial. The truth is, that no schemes can be formed, no directions can be delivered for the conduct of the passions, without a previous knowledge of their nature, the various circumstances that may excite them, and the strength they exert in every individual. Speculation may in some measure prepare, but can never sufficiently provide for practice. Thus a moralist may prescribe patience in the case of pain; but if the anguish arise from an author's reading his own works, a patient ear, however useful in general, will serve only to aggravate the misery, and perhaps render it insupportable. And indeed such means as these will always be found either useless or fatal; for they will either have no effect upon the passion, or totally destroy it. Let us try therefore to find an expedient, which shall preserve and nourish these elements of life, and at the same time prevent those evils
which

which are so justly apprehended, and so frequently felt from them.

ARISTOTLE has long ago observed that poetry is more philosophical than history; and Horace has not scrupled to prefer Homer to the philosophers themselves, even in points of instruction; in which all sensible men must unanimously concur. For the passions being a poet's peculiar province, he must indisputably be best acquainted with their nature, and best qualified to direct them. From the poets therefore we may expect information; and, if I am not much mistaken, every tragic writer will furnish us with the expedient we want. For there is scarce a single tragedy in which the passions of the hero have not full play, and yet by the substitution of proper objects, are artfully diverted from the production of those mischiefs that usually attend them. To instance in the tragedy of Fatal Constancy; the hero suspecting the cruelty of his mistress, or rather her obedience to her father, falls with the greatest propriety into the passion of anger, which thus bursts forth,

“Curs’d be the treach’rous sex, curs’d be the hour,

“Curs’d be the world, and every thing—but her!

Upon

Upon such a provocation as this, it was absolutely impossible to have prevented the passion; the poet therefore gives it free indulgence; and to avert the fatal effects it might have upon the lady, as the immediate cause, or upon the more remote one her father, he supposes it employed in execrations against the sex in general, the hour, the world, and in short against every thing but his mistress. Now this artifice may I think be very advantageously removed from the stage to the world, from fictitious to real persons, as appears from the conduct of gamesters, who in an ill run, will with the greatest vehemence curse their fortune or their cards, and having vented their anger, will play on with the utmost composure and resignation, and be perfectly agreeable to their adversaries.

THE ancients make mention of one Philoxenus, a celebrated eater, who instead of making his rivals at the table the objects of his passion, envied cranes for their length of neck; the short duration of pleasure being the only defect of his enjoyment. Mr. Pope too takes notice of a reverend fire,

Who

Who envy'd every sparrow that he saw.

I produce these instances merely to shew the possibility of an innocent exercise of the passions, which must be employed to prevent a stagnation in the mind, and by these means may be indulged without injury to others. Thus rural squires, who are pure followers of nature, to keep their dogs and themselves in breath, trail herrings along the road, when the season will not admit of real business.

BUT to remove all doubts concerning the possibility of this method, and at the same time to shew its utility, I must introduce St. Austin to my readers. It is well known that the prevailing passion of this saint was love, and that an habitual indulgence had rendered it too formidable for a regular attack. He therefore engaged by stratagem, where his utmost strength was ineffectual, and by forming a woman of snow for his embraces, secured his own character, and the honour of his fair disciples, from those devastations to which they must otherwise have been fatally exposed.

AN

AN example like this is, I think, sufficient to confirm the principles, and recommend the practice of substituting objects for the exercise of the passions; but lest difficulties should arise from the choice, I shall point out such as will best correspond with some particular passions, that we may from thence be enabled to judge what will best suit with the rest. To begin with what is most important and most prevailing, Love. Should a young lady find herself unfortunately exposed to the unruliness of this passion, either by nature or education, by too close an attention to the study of romance, or too strong a confidence in the conversation of her friends, her condition must be very deplorable: for indulgence, the most obvious expedient, is prohibited by custom; opposition would always be found ridiculous, often impracticable, and sometimes fatal; and should she follow the example of poor Viola in Shakespear,

— *who never told her love,
But let concealment, like a worm i' th' bud,
Feed on her damask cheek,*

her

her case must be desperate indeed: for the destruction of her charms would infallibly destroy the very means of happiness, and make her fit only for the incurables of a convent, for which our protestant country has not yet thought proper to provide. Now all these inconveniencies will be removed by substituting some other object to engross her affection. Thus a lap-dog, a squirrel, or a parrot, may relieve her distress, by being admitted to her bosom, and receiving those *douceurs* and caresses which her passion prompts her to bestow upon her lover. It is certain that the celebrated Antonia escaped the fatal effects of this passion, and preserved her character untainted amidst the slanders and corruption of the worst of courts, by fixing her affection upon a lamprey. In vain did the beaux of Rome offer up their vows; her tenderness was devoted to her favourite fish, on which she doted to that degree, that she fondly adorned it with her choicest ear-rings.

BUT if this method should not sufficiently answer the great purpose of giving exercise to the passion, I cannot forbear the mention of

one

one more, and that is cards. A *parti carrè* at Cribbage or Whist will give full scope to the restlessness of its nature, and enable the fair female to indulge it in all its stages: for every deal will excite her affection or her anger; will inflame her jealousy, or restore her ease; will give her all the pangs of disappointment, or furnish the silent transports of success.

WHAT has been hitherto proposed is designed for the unmarried ladies; the situation and circumstances of a wife, being in some respects different, may require a different treatment. If therefore what is here prescribed prove ineffectual, she may have recourse to St. Austin's remedy, which is always at hand; for by fixing her affections upon her husband, she may convert a lump of snow into a lover, and have the saint's exquisite pleasure of a mortifying indulgence.

I WOULD now proceed to the other passions, and lay down rules for their regulation, did I not think it absolutely unnecessary: for several of them, such as *shame*, *fear*, &c. are become obsolete, and consequently unknown. Others may be constantly employed upon husbands,

bands, friends and dependents : for these objects occur upon every occasion, and an ill choice can scarcely be made. Thus if anger be the passion of the day, a lady need not be told that she may exert it with the greatest safety and satisfaction upon a husband or a servant. Or should the fair one be under the influence of pride, on whom can it be exercised with greater propriety than upon a female friend, especially if poverty has reduced her to a state of indigence and dependence? For fortune has plainly marked such creatures for the use and amusement of her favourites.



NUMB. 204. THURSDAY, *Nov. 25, 1756.*

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

THE season is now approaching when the wisdom of the nation provides the supplies necessary for the support of government. The two great questions commonly debated on such occasions, are the WHEREFORE and the HOW.

The

The WHEREFORE, as the politician in the Rehearsal says, answers itself; but then as to the *quomodo*, or the HOW, here the invention of the ingenious lover of his country may, without offence, be exerted.

CERTAIN unsubsidized pamphleteers have thought proper to observe, that scarcely a single tax can be devised which has not been already imposed, in order to strip this *beggarly* nation (as they are pleased to call it) even of its rags: for if we credit these gentlemen, the nation does indeed hang in tatters, and we must expect very speedily to hear Britannia crying out with a most lamentable voice in the streets, “Pray, your honour, do, good your honour, one single farthing to a poor distressed gentlewoman, with a great charge of helpless children.”

A CERTAIN emperor is reported to have offered a reward to any one who should discover a new species of pleasure; and it is hoped, that in imitation of that emperor, the ministry will make *some promises* to any one who shall invent a new tax.

FOR my own part, I flatter myself that I have discovered some methods of raising money
by

by taxes, which have hitherto escaped the researches of projectors and politicians: but however various my *ways and means* may be, I shall content myself at present with communicating only one of my schemes, that from the reception it meets with from those in power, I may be tempted either to conceal or make public the rest.

THERE is a certain species of conversation, which is commonly termed *the saying of GOOD THINGS*. In this commodity almost everybody deals. The cheesemonger's wife at a gossiping, and the haberdasher at the club, say GOOD THINGS as well as their betters, during the short intervals from Whist. This commodity has hitherto escaped the observation of the legislature; and yet no sufficient reason appears why a tax may not be imposed upon every GOOD THING which shall be said, uttered, or spoken from and after Lady-day next.

It will possibly be objected that some difficulties may occur as to the proper methods of levying this tax. The officers of the revenue, it may be said, cannot be supposed proper judges of what is, and what is not, a GOOD THING;

THING ; and an appeal to the quarter sessions, in all probability, would not much mend the matter. To this it may be answered, that in the case before us, the user or consumer may be safely trusted on his bare affirmation ; an indulgence which I should very unwillingly recommend on any other occasion. The method I would propose, is, that every person who says a GOOD THING, shall receive a certificate thereof on stamp paper, for which certificate the sum of two shillings and sixpence *only* shall be exacted : providing always, that he who says a VERY GOOD THING, may for such VERY GOOD THING demand a certificate as aforesaid, on payment of five shillings in manner aforesaid.

It may be farther objected, as this tax is proposed to extend to the *writing*, as well as *saying* GOOD THINGS, that it will be of inexpressible detriment to many professed authors. Their interest and their vanity will incline them to contribute largely to the stamp duty ; but it cannot in reason be expected that they should ever be able to raise a single half-crown for the purchase of a certificate. My intention, Mr. Fitz-Adam, is not to injure these gentlemen.

gentlemen. I pity poor authors with all my heart. They “who cannot *dig*, and who to “*beg* are ashamed,” *must write*: far be it from me therefore to deprive them of an ingenious livelihood. To quiet their minds, I humbly propose that they shall not be obliged to tax themselves, but that their readers shall tax them for every GOOD THING which they may chance to publish. Thus will the tax become no intolerable grievance: indeed it will be scarcely felt, unless false English, low wit, and licentious scurrility be declared GOOD THINGS by public authority. All that I entreat is, that as I leave them the liberty of *writing* what they please, they will also allow me the liberty of *reading* what I please. By this means we shall have little intercourse, and consequently little occasion for quarrel.

THIS tax will indeed fall somewhat heavy upon you, Mr. Fitz-Adam: but in times of danger and difficulty, every man must contribute according to his ability to the necessities of his country. However, to make this matter easy, I am willing to yield you the whole honour of my invention; and I doubt not but you may obtain a saving clause, im-
powering

powering you to write GOOD THINGS without the expence of a certificate.

WE are all of us apt to shew some degree of partiality to our own children; and this may perhaps induce me to be over-fond of my present project. Yet the most impartial must acknowledge, that no tax can be more extensive, or be levied with greater ease to the public and the subject. It will therefore afford me the highest satisfaction to see this my darling scheme enforced by the wisdom of the legislature. I can already in imagination rejoice over some future resolution of the honourable house, conceived in words to the following effect.

“RESOLVED that the sum of one million
“sterling be raised by way of lottery on annuities payable out of the produce of the tax
“upon GOOD THINGS.”

IT would be no less agreeable to me to read a paragraph in the London Evening Post, or some other loyal paper, importing that “this
“day the worshipful company of Fishmongers
“dined together at their hall in Thames-
“street, where the tax upon GOOD THINGS
“said after dinner amounted to four hundred
“and

“ and ten pounds, seventeen shillings and six
 “ pence, being the largest sum which had
 “ ever been collected on that occasion.”

I MAKE no doubt but that great sums might be expected on this account from the common halls of our two learned universities; not to say any thing of the laudable society of Anti-Gallicans, the venerable order of Free Masons, and the numerous fraternities of Bucks, Bloods, and Choice Spirits.

It may possibly be insinuated that France will endeavour to avail itself of our example, and impose likewise a tax upon GOOD THINGS; but as freedom of speech is greatly restrained in all absolute monarchies, we have nothing to fear from such an attempt. Here then we shall be unrivalled, and shall be able for once to boast with justice, that we have *outwitted* our enemies.

IF it should still farther be objected to this tax, that it will be a partial one, and grievously burthensome to the poor wit, while the rich alderman, the justice of the quorum, and the fine gentleman, will be totally exempted from it, I answer, that in these public-spirited times, and upon this particular occasion, every
 man

man will be ambitious of contributing his quota, whether he can be legally taxed or not; nay, I am humbly of opinion, that those who say the fewest GOOD THINGS, will generously make their demands upon the stamp-office for the greatest number of certificates.

I had once entertained thoughts of extending my project to the GOOD THINGS that people *do* as well as *say*; but upon consulting a few friends upon the matter, I was convinced that the benefits arising from such an addition would be too inconsiderable to be felt. I have therefore, for the good of my poor country, and the ease of those in power, made what haste I could to communicate my scheme as it now is, which I desire you to publish as soon as possible, and am,

SIR,

Your most faithful

humble servant.



NUMB. 205. THURSDAY, Dec. 2, 1756.

Nunc adhibe puro

Pectore verba, puer, nunc te melioribus offer.—

HOR.

Tendere ad Indos

Auroramque sequi. ———

VIRG.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

AMONG the many reasons that were urged against entering into the present war, and the various clamours that have been raised since the commencement of hostilities, I do not find any body has considered the importance of a peace with France, in regard to the education of our young nobility: and I cannot but think our ministers would have been less hasty in their measures, had they paid proper attention to an object of so great moment.

THIS oversight is the more surprising, as the dangers attending heirs apparent at home, and the necessity of travel from the age of seven-

seventeen to twenty-one, have long been notorious to all the world. Who would trust a son in the way of pedantry and tobacco, party and elections, fox hounds and Newmarket; of the bewitching glances that lurk beneath a pompadour hat at Ranelagh, or the unadorned, but not less dangerous charms of the curate's daughter near the mansion seat? On the other side, who is not aware that, abroad, national prejudices are destroyed, the mind is opened, the taste refined, the person improved? And what must be a farther consolation to parents, is, that the habits and manners contracted by young gentlemen in their travels, are likely to remain with them all their lives after. It seldom happens that the Paris pump and Lyon's velvet give place to the tight boot and short skirt; or that a man accustomed to the elegance and loll of a *vis à vis*, with cushions of down within, and the varnish of Martin without, is so absurd at his return, as to trot ten miles before day in a dreary winter morning, and pass the hours due to hazard or a mistress, on the side of a bleak cover, shivering in expectation of a fox.

As it is far from my intention to stir up a clamour against the advisers of this war, I shall not enter farther into a discussion of the advantages of a foreign, or the evils of a domestic education, but hasten to my scheme for the improvement of youth, in spite of our enemies; the first hint of which arose accidentally in conversation with a friend, at whose house in the country I spent some days last month.

WE were walking in a park, decorated with all the variety of Asiatic ornament, which at present so generally prevails among improvers of taste; when this gentleman, who is a leading man of that class, as well as a thorough zealot in the modern system of education, took occasion to consult me in regard to the disposal of his eldest son; a youth about sixteen years of age, heir to a very large fortune, and at present at one of our universities. My friend, I found, was very uneasy lest he should contract the rust of the college, and most pathetically lamented his ill fortune that the doors of France should be so critically shut against a lad formed by nature for all the accomplishments

ments which so eminently distinguish that polite nation.

IN reflecting upon the good man's embarrassment, and admiring the several temples, bridges, and other edifices of Chinese architecture which surrounded me, I was led to consider whether to send our sons to PEKIN instead of PARIS, would not better answer all purposes of travel. And though you may start, as did my friend, at the first view of this proposal, I doubt not, Mr. Fitz-Adam, but upon deliberation you will agree with me in many of the circumstances that I think must render such a progress preferable to the other, more entertaining to the young gentlemen themselves, more suitable to the intentions of their parents and guardians, and more beneficial to their country.

AMONG the many considerations which immediately occurred to me upon this subject, I shall beg leave principally to observe, that the manufactures of China, which have hitherto reached us, bear the preference to most of our own of the same kinds, in spite of European pride: and I am persuaded those politer arts, which are the great objects of travel, are in

a degree of excellence, well worthy our notice, among the ingenious people of that country, though they have hitherto made their way to us slowly and imperfectly, for want of proper travellers. The merchant and the missionary (almost the only visitors of so distant a region) attend merely to those observations which regard the commerce and religion of their nation and sect; the views of the one are too confined, and of the other generally too enthusiastic to produce the good effects which would accrue from the enquiries of men of more enlarged ideas, and unprejudiced sentiments. The present juncture seems marked by the good genius of this isle for the most important discoveries. How many young men of fashion might be picked out, whom no one could suspect of prejudices either in favour of trade or religion! and surely a mettled fellow could not hesitate in his choice between this route and the old beaten one of France and Italy; where from a Calais landlord, to a Neapolitan princess, there is a sameness of adventure that is become extremely irksome to a polite circle in the recital. A traveller will be greatly disappointed who fancies the
tour.

tour of Europe will entitle him to attention at Arthur's or an assembly. Alas! after four years of expence, danger and fatigue, if he expects auditors, he must have recourse to his tenants in the country, or seek them about four o'clock on a bench in St. James's park. On the contrary, let us suppose a young nobleman just arrived with a dress and equipage *à la Chinoise*, what a curiosity would be excited in the town! what entertainment, what admiration would it afford! What triumph would he feel in entering a route, to see at his approach the lover rise from beneath the hoop on the settee, the dowager quit her cards, and all

With greedy ears devour up his discourse!

It would be a severe blow to the French, Mr. Fitz-Adam, should the Chinese succeed to the empire of taste; and it is worthy remark, as I hinted above, and as others of your correspondents have done before, what advances they daily make towards it. Without doors, from the seats of our dukes, to the shops of our haberdashers, all is Chinese;

and in most places within (at least where that sex which ought always to have the lead in elegance is concerned) Raphael and Titian give place to the more pleasing masters of Surat and Japan. Should their dress and cookery become as fashionable as their architecture and painting, adieu the most flourishing commerce of France: and I see no reason why they should not, if introduced by proper persons. Novelty is the soul of both, and quickness of invention the surest recommendation to the cook, as well as the taylor. For my own part I have commissioned my two nephews, who are actually preparing for their voyage next spring, to bring over one of the greatest men they can find in each of these capacities; and I flatter myself that *their* dress and *my* table will give the taste to the whole town. I have likewise desired these young gentlemen to contract for the best dancers now in Asia, whether monkeys or men, and propose to oblige the managers of both theatres with a Chinese ballet, that I think will engage to them the support of the whole society of Anti-Gallians.

If

IF any young nobleman can want yet farther encouragement for this undertaking, let him consider how much greater scope there is to shew his genius in the construction of a vessel, than in that of a post-chaise; not to mention the many conveniencies and comforts he will have about him, which a land carriage cannot afford: for instance, his cook, his toad-eater, his set at Whist, and, if he pleases, his girl: for, by the way, it would be cruel in a parent to deny a son, embarked on so useful a progress, any of those amusements or resources, so generally esteemed innocent in other travels, and which indeed I have seldom heard that the most scrupulous governor objected to in France or Italy. It is possible that the article of sea-sickness may alarm the tenderness of some mothers: but what is it more than the qualms of claret? and a youth who has shewn any spirit at college, cannot have much to apprehend from that complaint.

AND here, Mr. Fitz-Adam, I cannot forbear hinting to our patriots of what service such a system of education would prove to our marine, the great bulwark of the nation.

I am persuaded it would turn out as good a nursery for sailors as the herring fishery : and what a resource would it be in any sudden emergency (like the present for example) if the numerous retinues of the gay and great were able to go to a top-mast head ! A set of fellows, who now serve only to excite the contempt or indignation of their industrious countrymen, would become useful members, and be regarded as a hidden strength of the state. Who knows but some of the young gentlemen themselves might take a more particular fancy to a blue uniform than to a red one ? and I apprehend it would as soon entitle them to the esteem of their country, and not be less becoming in the eyes of the ladies.

BUT the point which will be thought of the most importance by your serious readers, is still behind. It has been remarked of late years (I fear with some truth) that the majority of our young travellers return home entirely divested of the religion of their country, without having acquired any new one in it's place. Now as our free-thinkers are universally known to be the strictest moralists, I apprehend the doctrine of Confucius might have a very good effect

effect upon them, and possibly give them a certain plan, which they have all along wanted. In time perhaps they might institute some form of publick worship, and thereby remove the scandal of atheism, which our enemies abroad, from the behaviour of our travellers, are so apt to brand us with: and it is my private opinion, that if a Chinese temple were to be built by subscription, in a good quarter of the town, for the worship of the polite world, it could not fail of success.

I NOW, Mr. Fitz-Adam, leave you to comment upon my project. If it is recommended from your pen, I doubt not but it will be followed. We shall then see the new and old route distinguished by the title of the GRAND and LITTLE TOUR. It will be left to the ensign and the templer to trip to Paris, in absence from quarters, and long vacation; plodding genius's, admirers of the classics, philosophers and poets will reach Rome; while the noble youth of more extensive fortune and more general principles, the rising spirits, born to take the lead, and set a pattern to the world, strike out a path more worthy their genius, and
more

more adapted to the enlightened age in which we live.

I am,

SIR,

Your constant reader

and admirer,

C.



NUMB. 206. THURSDAY, Decemb. 9, 1756.

Audire est operæ pretium, procedere rectè

Qui mæchis non vultis, ut omni parte laborent,

Utque illis multo corrupta dolore voluptas. HOR.

MR. FITZ-ADAM,

AS the history of my life may be of some service to many of your readers, I shall relate it with all the openness and simplicity of truth. If they give a due attention to the errors and mistakes of my conduct, they will pass over those of my style. I am no scholar, having had a private education under the eye of my mother. Instead of conversing or playing with other boys, I went a visiting with her; and

and while she and my tutor were at Cribbage, in which they passed a considerable part of the day, I read such books as I found lying about her room; the chief of which were the Atalantis, Ovid's Art of Love, novels, romances, miscellaneous poems, and plays. From these studies I contracted an early taste for gallantry; and as nothing pleased me so much as the comedies of the last age, my thoughts were constantly engrossed with the enviable situation of the heroes of those pieces. Your Dorimants and your Horners struck my imagination beyond the brightest characters in Pope's Homer; and though I liked the gallantry of fighting ten years for a woman, yet I thought the Greeks might have found a readier way of making themselves amends, by visiting their friends at Troy, and taking revenge in kind. Such were the exploits to command my admiration, and such the examples which I looked up to: and having manifest advantages of person, I entertained most extravagant conceits of my future triumphs. Yet even in the height of those extravagancies, I had no hope of obtaining every favour that I solicited; much less should I have been persuaded that such uncommon

common success could be productive of any thing but consummate happiness. The history of my life will prove the contrary; and I chuse to record it, with a view of shewing what a succession of trouble, distress and misery arose from the very completion of my desires.

I WAS precipitately sent to Oxford, on being discovered in an intrigue with a young girl, whom my tutor had lately married, and who had a prior attachment to Me. As my love for her was excessive, this separation was inexpressibly painful; and I learned from it, that past joys were no consolation for present disappointment. I found the university life so little suited to my taste, that I soon prevailed upon my mother to let me come to London. Before I had been a week in town, I was introduced to a young woman, whom I took so great a fancy to, that the very violence of my passion made me despair of success. I was however so agreeably disappointed, that I could scarce conceal the transports of joy which possession gave me: but this joy was more than ballanced, when at the end of some months I was told of the condition into which this kind creature was brought

brought by her compliance with my desires. My anxiety upon this event was too great to be restrained; and honour, which alone had stopt the overflowings of my joy, prompted me to give a loose to my concern. I bewailed with remorse and tears the shame and misery of deluded innocence, and cursed myself as the author of so much ruin and infamy. I spared no expence to render her unhappy situation as comfortable as it could be made, and shut myself up with her till the expected time of her delivery. That fatal hour infinitely increased our mutual shame, by giving birth to a little negroe, which though it delivered me at once from the pangs of conscience, put me to an immoderate expence in bribes to the nurses, to keep the secret of my disgrace.

THIS unlucky adventure had almost spoiled me for a man of gallantry; but I soon lost all remembrance of ill usage in the innocent smiles and gentle sweetness of a young lady, who gave me every mark of tender love and constancy. Our mutual fondness made it impossible for us to bear that separation which discretion required. As she gave up all her acquaintance

acquaintance for my sake, she soon found herself abandoned by them; so that our constant living together, which hitherto had been choice, was now become an absolute necessity. This confinement, though it did not abate, but, if possible, increased my tenderness, had so different an effect upon her temper, as to cause a total change in behaviour to me and all about her: she stormed day and night like a fury, and did every thing to drive me from her company: yet if ever I went from her upon the most urgent business, she would throw herself into fits, and upbraid me with the most bitter reproaches. On my being sent for to attend my mother in her last moments, she threatened with horrid imprecations, that if I left her then, I should never see her more. I had scarce broke from her menaces, when she flew from her lodgings in an agony of passion, and has not been heard of since.

SOON after the death of my mother, a lady of quality who visited her, and who had cast an envious eye upon her diamonds, which were not contemptible, took occasion to make some advances towards me. Whenever we met,

met, her discourse always turned upon the great merits of my mother, and the taste which she shewed in the choice and manner of wearing her jewels : and this conversation as constantly ended in an assignation at her house. Though I was at first a little proud to find my presents meet so ready an acceptance, I was not exceedingly flattered in the progress of this amour ; especially when I came to perceive, that the strongest recommendation I had to her favour was growing weaker every day. I found also that a declaration which I had made of not loving cards, did not contribute to strengthen my interest in that family.

My next affair was with a lady who was really fond of me ; and I thought myself then at the height of my wishes : for she managed so discreetly, that we had not the least interruption from her husband at home ; but her conduct abroad was a perpetual scene of indiscretion and tyranny. She obliged me to attend her every night to the opera, and never to stir from her side. She would carry me to the most frequented plays, and keep me in a whisper during the most interesting scenes.

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Not satisfied with this, she made me walk with her eternally in the park, the old-road, and Kensington gardens; and to compleat her triumph, she draged me, a miserable object! about the streets of London, with the same pitiless ostentation as the inhuman conqueror trailed the lifeless carcase of Hector round the walls of Troy. To compleat my misfortunes, it happened that the *beau monde* established a new mode of gallantry; and all knights amorous were required to make love after the new fashion, and attend their fair on horse-back. Unluckily for me, my mother, not suspecting that horsemanship would ever become, here, a requisite in gallantry, had made it no part of my English education: therefore being an absolute novice, I procured the quietest beast that was to be got, and hoped that I was properly mounted: but I soon found my mistake; for the dulness of the beast tended to bring a most disgraceful suspicion on the spirit of the rider; and I was obliged at all events to undertake a more mettlesome steed. The consequence was this: the moment I joined my mistress, she drew out her handkerchief, which fluttering in the wind, so frightened my horse, that he

carried

carried me directly into the serpentine river. While I was taken up with my own danger and disgrace, her horse, which had started at the same time, ran a different way, and as she was no otherwise qualified for a rider, but by the consciousness of being a woman of fashion, she was thrown against a tree, and killed on the spot. The remembrance of her fondness for me, though so troublesome while living, was the cause of great affliction to me after her death : and it was near a twelvemonth before I settled my affections on a new object. This was a young widow, who though she did not give me the same occasion of complaint as the last, created me no less pain, by turning the tables upon me. Instead of requiring my constant attendance, she would complain that I haunted and dogged her; and would frequently secrete herself, or run on purpose into suspicious company, purely to give me uneasiness. Though confessedly her favourite, I have frequently been denied admittance, when the most worthless pretenders have been let in : and when I have offered her tickets for a concert which she liked, she has refused them, and accepted a party to a dull play, with

with the most despicable of my rivals. When we have been at the same table at cards, she has made it remarked by the whole assembly that her eyes and her discourse have been industriously kept from me : and such has been her cruelty, that when I have desired the honour of walking with her the next morning, she has answered, with a significant sneer, she was very sorry she could not have my company, for she intended to *ride*. With all this, who could imagine that I was the happy man? and yet, as I spared no pains nor cost in the enquiry, I can venture to pronounce that no other person whatever shared her favours with me. Of all the tortures that can be devised for the punishment of poor lovers, there are none so excruciating as this inequality of behaviour.

NOT to trouble you with a farther detail of the plagues and disquietudes, the discoveries, expences, fines and dangers which are incident to gallantry in general, I shall only tell you that I at last perceived there was no peace or comfort for the votaries of Venus but under the auspices of Hymen. To overcome my inveterate prejudices

dices against the conjugal state, so long despised, insulted and injured by me, was the great difficulty : but as the thorough detection of the vanity and folly of every degree of gallantry had by no means extinguished my unalterable love for the sex, I found upon mature reflection, that marriage was my only resource, and that I should run no great risque in exchanging the *real* for the *imaginary* pains of love.

HAVING taken this resolution, I stepped into the ridotto, fixed my eyes upon a very engaging figure, and immediately advertised for the young lady in blue and silver ; requiring only a certificate of her good humour. I went to the coffee-house, received a letter for A. B. and in the space of a few months, from being a restless, tyrannized, tormented wretch, I found myself a husband, a cuckold, and a happy man. I lived ten years in a state of perfect tranquility ; and I can truly say, that I once met with a woman, who, to the day of her death, behaved to me with constant attention and complacency.

I am, SIR,

Your most humble servant,

T. Z.



NUMB. 207. THURSDAY, Dec. 16, 1756.

THE exorbitant exactions of servants in great houses, and the necessity imposed upon you, after dining at a friend's table, of surrendering all the money in your pocket to the *gang in livery*, who very dexterously intercept every avenue to the street door, have been the subject of a former paper. This custom, illiberal and preposterous as it is, neither the ridicule with which I have treated it, nor my more serious reprehension will, I fear, be able to abolish. My correspondents continue to complain, that though the hospitable door is opened wide for their admission, yet, like that of Pluto in Virgil, it is hardly pervious at their retreat; nor can they pass the ninefold barrier without a copious shower of influencing silver. The watchful dragons still expect, and will expect for ever, their quieting sop, from his honour's bowing butler, with the significant napkin under his arm, to the surly Swiss who guards the vestibule. Your passport is not now received by these collectors, as a free gift, but gathered as a

turnpike toll; or, in other words, as the just discharge of your tavern reckoning. Thus the stile of invitation, which runs generally that "Lord such-a-one desires you will do him the favour to dine with him," is explained, by dear-bought experience, to import, that you will obligingly contribute your quota to the payment of his servants wages.

YET this abuse, grievous as it is to the guest, and disgraceful to the master, is by no means the greatest inconvenience arising from a want of attention to æconomical regulations. The following letter, which I have only room to insert at present, but which, for the sake of my correspondent, I may possibly take under consideration at another opportunity, will sufficiently shew the necessity of such regulations.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I AM a plain country gentleman, possessed of a plentiful fortune, and blest with most of the comforts of life; but am at present (not through any fault of my own, that I can recollect) in great distress; which I am
as

as much at a loss how to remedy, as I was unable to prevent. Though I have loved peace and quiet all my life, and have endeavoured constantly to maintain good order and harmony in my family, I owe my grievances to the intrigues and jealousies, which have unhappily subsisted for some time past amongst my SERVANTS. I give them good wages, which I pay punctually; I indulge them in every reasonable request, from a desire to make them happy; and I have been told by all of them in their several turns, that I am, without exception, *the very best of masters.*

YET, with all my care and kindness, I cannot establish a proper subordination amongst them; without which, I am sensible, no family-government can long subsist; and for want of which (as they cannot find a decent and reasonable cause of complaint against Me) they are perpetually quarrelling with one another. They do not, I believe, intend originally to hurt me: on the contrary, they pretend, my advantage alone is the occasion of their disagreement. But, were this really true, my case is no less deplorable; for,

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notwithstanding the zeal they express for my service, and the respect and affection they profess to my person, my life is made miserable by their domestic squabbles; and my estate is mouldering away daily, whilst they are contending who should manage it for me. They are so obliging as to assure me, upon their honours, that their contests are only who can best serve so good a master, and deserve and claim the first place in his favour; but, alas! I begin to be a little apprehensive that their struggle is, and has been, who should get most *VAILS*, and have most *POWER* under me; or, as you may think perhaps, *over* me.

THE first appearance of this intestine discord was upon the following occasion.

I HAVE a very troublesome neighbour, who is continually committing encroachments upon my lands and manor. He attacks me first with his *pen*; and pretending to have found out some flaw in my settlements, he commences a suit of trespass against me; but at the same time, fearing lest the law should happen to decide in favour of *RIGHT*, he sends me word *he wears a sword*. Not long ago he

threatened me that he would break into my park, steal my fish out of my canal, and shoot my hares and deer within my pales. Upon the advice of my steward and other servants, I sent to my estate in the north for a trusty game-keeper, (whose bravery and fidelity I could rely upon) to come to my assistance, that he might help to preserve, not only my GAME but my FAMILY, which seemed to be in no small danger. These orders were no sooner dispatched, than to my great surprise, my POSTILION bolted into the parlour where I was sitting, and told me with all the warmth of a patriot, that he could not consent to FERDINAND the game-keeper's admission into the house, for that he humbly conceived it was neither for my honour nor my interest to be indebted for any part of my protection, or even safety, to a FOREIGNER; for you must know, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that, very unfortunately for me, my poor honest FERDINAND did happen to be born somewhere or other in GERMANY. You may imagine however, that I paid little attention to this remonstrance of my POSTILION; but dismissing him from my service, I sent for FERDINAND;

who,

who, upon the first summons, travelled night and day to come to my relief.

THE next fit of affection that embarrassed me, broke out in my ambitious HELPER. He professed himself so excessively careful of my person, that he did not think it safe for me to be driven any longer by my old COACHMAN; on which account he grew impatient to ascend the box himself. But his contrivances to facilitate this removal, were plain indications that he attended to his own advancement, more than to my preservation: for I have been informed, that he has often frightened the horses, to make them start unexpectedly out of the quarter: at other times he has been detected in laying great stones in the way, with a design to overturn the coach; and in roads of difficulty and danger, was sure to keep out of the way himself: nay, at last, he tried to persuade the servants, that it was the COACHMAN's intention to drive headlong over them, and break all their necks. But when he found I had too good an opinion of old THOMAS to entertain any suspicion of his *honesty*, he came one morning in a pet, and gave me warning.

I told him with great temper, he was to blame, paid him his wages, and bid THOMAS provide himself with another HELPER. But I leave you to judge of my grief as well as surprise, when THOMAS answered me with tears in his eyes, “ that he must intreat my permission to
 “ retire from my service : he found, he said,
 “ he had many enemies, both within doors
 “ and without : my family was divided into
 “ various parties ; some were favourable to
 “ the HELPER, and others had been wrought
 “ upon by the late POSTILION ; he should
 “ be always grateful for the goodness I had
 “ shewn him ; and his last breath should be
 “ employed in praying for my prosperity.” It was with great reluctance that I consented to his request ; he had served me honestly above thirty years, from affection more than interest ; had always greased my wheels himself, and upon every one of my birth-days had treated all his brother whips at his own expence : so that, far from being a gainer by my service, he had spent above half of what he had saved, before he came into it. You may imagine I would willingly have settled a comfortable annuity upon him ; but you will wonder at his behaviour

haviour on this occasion : indeed I have never met with any thing like it, in one of his low station : he declared, that he would rather live upon bread and cheese, than put my honour to any expence, when he could be no longer useful to me.

THUS have I been reduced, contrary to my inclination, to hire another COACHMAN. The man I have now taken, bears a very reputable character ; but he happens to be so infirm, that he is scarce yet able to get upon his box : and though he promises, and I believe intends, to take all possible care of my horses, I fear he has not been accustomed to drive a set so restive as mine are, especially in bad roads. I have also been persuaded to take my POSTILION again, as he is a great favourite of my present COACHMAN. Between them they are new-modelling my family for me, and discharging those servants whom they happen to dislike. My experienced BAILIFF, who used to hold my courts, has left me ; and my game-keeper, who has been obliged to lie during this hard winter in a tent in the garden, is ordered back again into the north, though he has given no sort of

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offence,

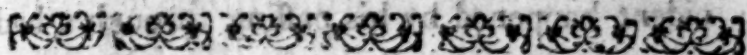
offence, but on the contrary, has been greatly instrumental in protecting me from the insults of my blustering neighbour; so unpardonable a crime is it to be born in GERMANY!

GOOD Mr. Fitz-Adam, advise me, as a friend, what course to take. We MASTERS, as we are improperly called, are become of late so subservient to our servants, that I should apprehend this universal want of subordination in them, must at last be detrimental to the state itself: for as a family is composed of many servants, cities and countries are made up of many houses and families, which together constitute a nation. Disobedience in the majority of individuals to their superiors, cannot fail of producing a general licentiousness, which must terminate at last in anarchy and confusion.

I am, SIR,

Your constant reader and admirer,

GEORGE MEANWELL.



NUMB. 208. THURSDAY, Dec. 23, 1756.

AS the first of the following letters is written by a female correspondent, and the second intended for the service of that sex, I have taken the first opportunity of giving them to the public.

TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I AM a young woman, and live in the country with an uncle and aunt, whose characters, as they are somewhat particular, may perhaps contribute towards the entertainment of your readers. My uncle is a man so full of himself, that he approves of nothing but what is done (to use his own words) *after his maxim*. About three years ago he caught a great cold; ever since which time he wears a great coat, and calls every man a fool that goes without one, even in the dog-days. The other day a relation coming to see him, was thrown off his horse, and broke his leg.—When he was brought into the house, and

my uncle came to be informed that the accident happened by his passing through a bad lane, in order to call upon a particular friend in his way to us, he told him with an air of great importance, that it was always a *maxim* with *him*, “never to do two things at once.” He then introduced a long story about queen Elizabeth and Lord Burleigh, which, after it had lasted above half an hour, concluded with Lord Burleigh’s telling the queen, that he had made it a maxim, “never to do but “one thing at a time.” Thus did he perplex the poor gentleman, who lay all the time with a broken limb; nor would he suffer any person in the room to go for a surgeon till his story was told. While the leg was setting, and the patient in the utmost torment, my uncle stood by, and with all the rhetoric he was master of, endeavoured to persuade his kinsman that his misfortune was entirely owing to a neglect of those excellent *maxims* which he had so often taught him. He concluded his harangue with a string of *proverbs*, *mottos* and *sentiments*, of which he is so ridiculously fond, that there is no single action of his life that is not entirely

tirely governed by one or other of them. I have seen him in the garden, in the midst of a most violent thunder-shower, walking a snail's pace towards the house, because his friend lord Onslow's motto is *festina lente*; which words I have heard him repeat and explain so often that I have them always in my head.

My aunt is truly one flesh with her husband. She approves of nothing but what is done after *her own example*, though she is unable to support her prejudices even by a *proverb* or a *saying*. As I am so unfortunate as to differ from her in almost all my actions, we are extremely liable to quarrel. *She* gets up at six, because she cannot *sleep*; and *I* lie in bed till nine, because I cannot easily *wake*. When we meet at breakfast, I am sure to be scolded for my drowsiness and indulgence, and questioned at least a dozen times over, "why I cannot do as *she* does, get up with the sun?" "Ay, says my uncle, and go to rest with the lark, as the saying is." But alas! my aunt observes but part of the saying; for long before the lark goes to roost, she will fall asleep in her chair, unless kept awake by cards;

though her usual bed-time is not till nine o'clock.

Now, Mr. Fitz-Adam, I would fain know whether the hours between nine and twelve, provided you are quite awake, are not of equal use with those between six and nine, when you are half the time asleep? My aunt says no; for that *one* hour in the morning is worth *two* in the afternoon; which I cannot for the life of me comprehend.

THE old lady is one of those good sort of women who think every thing beneath their notice but family affairs and housekeeping: for which reason, if ever she catches me reading a volume of the Spectator or World, she immediately asks me if the *Art of Cookery*, which she made me a present of, is mislaid or lost; to which she is sure to add, that for *her part*, she does not see what good can come of reading such heathenish books; and that had *she* given up her mind to *nonsense* and *stuff*, my uncle and his family must have been beggars, so they must.

AM I really to be governed by these old folks, or may I go on in my old way, and laugh at their absurdities? I read your paper
every

every Friday when the post comes in, and shall be glad to see this letter inserted in your next, with your opinion of the matter, that I may know which is the wisest, my uncle, my aunt, or Mr. Fitz-Adam's

humble servant

and admirer,

C. P.

S I R,

IF we pay a due regard to proverbial expressions, which are oftentimes founded in good sense and experience, the texture of the skull, particularly the extreme thickness or extreme thinness of it, contributes not a little to the stupidity or folly of our species. By a thick-skulled man we always mean a fool, and by a thin-skulled fellow, one without any discretion. May we not therefore suppose that the state of men, respecting their understandings, is pretty much this: when their craniums are extremely solid, they are generally ideots, when in a medium, persons of sense, when somewhat thinner, wits, and when extremely thin, madmen?

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WHAT has led me into these reflections, is the present fashion among our ladies, of going bareheaded, and a remarkable passage in Herodotus, concerning the effect of that practice among the Egyptians.

THIS ancient and curious historian and traveller tells us, that passing by Pelusium, where there had been, many years before, a bloody battle fought between the Persians and Egyptians, and the skulls of the slain on each side being still in different heaps, he found upon trial, that those of the Egyptians were so thick, they required a very strong blow to break them; whereas those of the Persians were so thin and tender, they scarcely resisted the slightest stroke. Herodotus attributes the thinness and tenderness of the Persians skulls, to their wearing warm caps or turbans; and the thickness and hardness of the Egyptians, to their going bareheaded, and thereby exposing their heads to heats and colds. Now if this opinion of Herodotus, and the foregoing remarks be well founded, what rueful effects may the present fashion of our ladies exposing their heads to all weathers, especially in the present cold season, be attended

tended with ! Instead of sensible, witty and ingenious women, for which this country has so long been famous, we may in a little time have only a generation of triflers.

By what has happened to a neighbouring nation, we have the more reason to dread the like misfortune among ourselves. And happy are those who take warning by the misfortunes of others. Formerly when the Dutch kept their heads warm in furred caps, they were a wise and brave people, delivered themselves from slavery, and established a wealthy and formidable republic : but since they have left off this good old fashion, and taken to French toupées, whereby their heads are much exposed, they are become so thick-sculled, that is, so stupid and foolish, as to neglect almost every means of national benefit and preservation.

THOUGH the ancient Greeks were some of the wisest and most acute people in the world, yet the Beotians were remarkably ignorant and dull. What can we ascribe this difference between them and their fellow Greeks to, but the different conformations of the seat of knowledge ? I wish our society of anti-

antiquaries would endeavour to find out if this did not proceed from the Beotians following the Egyptian fashion abovementioned.

ARE we to suppose that the only motive of our eminent physicians and great lawyers for wearing such large perriwigs as they generally do, is merely to *appear* wiser than other people? Have they not experienced that these warm coverings of the head greatly contribute to render them *really* so? One apparent proof of their being wiser than most others, is, that the former very rarely take any physic, and the latter never go to law, when they can avoid it. However, we must for the sake of truth acknowledge, that too many of these gentlemen of both professions, seem to have carried this practice of keeping their heads warm to such an excess, as to occasion a kind of madness, which shews itself in so voracious an appetite for fees, as can hardly be satisfied. But as we frequently see good proceed from evil, may it not be hoped that these extravagancies of physicians and lawyers will put people upon making as little work as possible for either, by substituting temperance in the room of physic, and arbitrations instead of law-suits?

WHE-

WHETHER your female readers will take warning by the examples here set before them, or much esteem your advice or mine, I know not; but surely such of them at least as go to church, and there say their prayers, will pay a proper regard to saint Paul, who tells them that “every woman, who prayeth with her head uncovered, dishonoureth her head.”

IN one of the islands in the Archipelago (I think it is Naxos) there was formerly a law that no woman should appear abroad in embroidered cloaths, or with jewels, unless she were a professed courtezan; nor be attended when she walked the streets, with more than one waiting-maid, except she was in liquor. Now what I would propose, is, that you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, should issue out an edict, that none of the fair sex in our island, shall for the future be seen in public without a cap, but such as are known to be ladies of pleasure; unless you shall be pleased to except those who are apt to tipple a little too much, and therefore go in this manner to cool their heads.

I am, SIR,

Your most humble servant.



NUMB. 209. THURSDAY, *Dec.* 30, 1756.

THE public will no doubt be a good deal astonished, that instead of the great name of Adam Fitz-Adam to this paper, they now see it written by a poor weak woman, its publisher, and dated from the Globe in Pater-Noster-Row. Alas! nothing but my regard and veneration for that dear good man could have got the better of my modesty, and tempted me to an undertaking, that only himself was equal to.

BEFORE these lines can reach the press, that truly great and amiable gentleman will, in all probability, be no more. An event so sudden and unexpected, and in which the public are so deeply interested, cannot fail to excite the curiosity of every reader; I shall therefore relate it in the concise manner I am able, not in the least doubting but my defects in style will be overlooked, and that grief and concern will prevent criticism.

THE

THE reader may remember, that in the first number of the WORLD, and in several succeeding papers, the good old gentleman flattered himself that the profits of his labours would some time or other enable him to make a genteel figure in the world, and seat him at last in his ONE-HORSE CHAIR. The death of Mrs. Fitz-Adam, which happened a few months since, as it relieved him from the great expence of housekeeping, made him in a hurry to set up this EQUIPAGE; and as the sale of his paper was even beyond his expectations, I was one of the first of his friends that advised him to purchase it. The EQUIPAGE was accordingly bespoke and sent home; and as he had all along promised that his first visit in it should be to me, I expected him last Tuesday at my country-house at Hoxton. The poor gentleman was punctual to his appointment; and it was with great delight that I saw him from my window driving up the road that leads to my house. Unfortunately for him, his eye caught mine; and hoping (as I suppose) to captivate me by his great skill in driving, he made two or three flourishes with his whip, which so frightened the horse, that he ran furiously

riously away with the carriage, dashed it against a post, and threw the driver from his seat with a violence hardly to be conceived. I screamed out to my maid, "Lord bless me! says I, "Mr. Fitz-Adam is killed!" and away we ran to the spot where he lay. At first I imagined that his head was off; but upon drawing nearer to him, I found it was his hat! He breathed indeed, which gave me hopes that he was not quite dead; but for other signs of life, he had positively none.

In this miserable condition, with the help of some neighbours, we brought him into the house, where a warm bed was quickly got ready for him; which together with bleeding and other helps, brought him by degrees to life and reason. He looked round about him for some time, and at last, seeing and knowing me, enquired after his CHAISE. I told him it was safe, though a good deal damaged. "No matter, madam, he replied; it has done my business: it has carried me a journey from this world to the next: I shall have no use for it again." Here his speech failed him, and I thought him expiring; but after a few minutes, recovering as it were from a trance,
 he

he proceeded thus. "Mrs. Cooper, says he,
 "you behold in the miserable object now be-
 "fore you, a speaking monument of the folly
 "and madness of ambition. This fatal CHAISE
 "was the ultimate end of all my pursuits;
 "the hope of it animated my labours, and
 "filled me with ideas of felicity and grandeur.
 "Alas ! how has it humbled me ! May other
 "great men take warning from my fall ! The
 "WORLD, Mrs. Cooper, is now at an end !
 "I thought it destined to a longer period ; but
 "the decrees of fate are not to be resisted. It
 "would indeed have pleased me to have writ-
 "ten the last paper myself ; but that task,
 "madam, must be yours ; and however pain-
 "ful it may be to your modesty, I conjure you
 "to undertake it." He paused here for a mi-
 "nute or two, as if waiting for my answer ; and
 "as well as I could speak for sorrow and con-
 "cern, I promised what he asked. "Your
 "knowledge as a publisher, madam (proceed-
 "ed he) and your great fluency of words,
 "will make it perfectly easy to you. Little
 "more will be necessary than to set forth my
 "sudden and unhappy end ; to make my ac-
 "knowledgements to the public for the in-
 "dulgence

“dulgence it has shewn me; and above all,
 “to testify my gratitude to my numerous cor-
 “respondents, to whose elegant pieces this pa-
 “per has been principally indebted for its un-
 “common success. I intended (with permis-
 “sion) to have closed the work with a list of
 “those correspondents; but death prevents
 “me from raising this monument to my
 “fame.”

A VIOLENT fit of coughing, in which I
 feared the poor gentleman would have gone
 off, robbed him of his speech for more than
 half an hour: at last, however, he came again
 to himself, and, though more feebly than be-
 fore, proceeded as follows. “I am thankful,
 “madam, that I yet live, and that an oppor-
 “tunity is given me of confessing the frailties
 “of my nature to a faithful friend.” I wink-
 ed at Susan to withdraw, but she would not
 understand me: her stay, however, did not
 prevent Mr. Fitz-Adam from giving me a full
 detail of the sins of his youth; which as they
 only amounted to a few gallantries among the
 ladies, with nothing more heinous than a rape
 or two at college, we bid him be of comfort,
 and think no more of such trifles. “And
 “now,

“now, madam, says he, I have another con-
 “cern to trouble you with. When I was
 “a boy at school, it always possessed my
 “thoughts, that whenever I died I should be
 “buried in Westminster abbey. I confess
 “freely to you, madam, that this has been
 “the constant ambition of my riper years.
 “The great good which my labours have
 “done to mankind will, I hope, entitle my
 “remains to an interment in that honourable
 “place; nor will the public, I believe, be dis-
 “inclined to erect a suitable monument to my
 “memory. The frontispiece to the *WORLD*,
 “which was the lucky thought of my printer,
 “I take to be a most excellent design; and if
 “executed at large in virgin marble, must
 “have an admirable effect. I can think only
 “of one alteration in it, which is, that in the
 “back ground I would have, in relief, a one-
 “horse chair in the act of overturning, that
 “the story of my death, as it contains a les-
 “son for the ambitious, may be recorded with
 “my name. My epitaph, if the public might
 “be so satisfied, I would have decent and
 “concise. It would offend my modesty, if
 “after

after the name of Fitz-Adam, more were to be added than these words,

“ *He was the deepest* PHILOSOPHER,

“ *The wittiest* WRITER,

A N D

“ *The greatest* MAN

“ *Of* THIS AGE *or* NATION.

“ I say, madam, of *this* age and nation, because other times and other countries have produced very great men ; infomuch that there are names among the ancients, hardly inferior to that of Adam Fitz-Adam.”

THE good old gentleman would have proceeded, but his speech failed him again, and he lay as if expiring for two whole hours ; during which interval, as I had no time to spare, and as all I had heard was then fresh in my memory, I sat myself down to fulfill the promise I had made. When I had written thus far, he again attempted to speak to me, but could not. I held up the paper to him, and asked if he would hear it read. He nodded his assent, and, after I had gone through it, his approbation. I desired him to signify by some motion of his hand, if there was any thing

thing in it that he wished to have altered. He nodded his head again, and gave me a look of such complacency and regard, as convinced me I had pleased him. It is from a knowledge of this circumstance, that I shall now send what I have written to the press, with no other concern than for the accident that occasioned it: an accident, which I shall never think of without tears, as it will probably deprive the public of a most able instructor, and me of a worthy friend, and constant benefactor.

Globe, Pater-Noster-Row,
Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1756.

MARY COOPER.

P. S. Wednesday night, ten o'clock. Mr. Fitz-Adam is still alive, though in a dangerous way. He came to his speech this morning, and directed me to inform the public, that as the WORLD is now closed, he has ordered a general INDEX to the folio volumes to be printed and given GRATIS in a few days at Mr. Dod-ley's in Pall-Mall, and at M. Cooper's at the Globe in Pater-Noster-Row,



A
WORLD
EXTRAORDINARY.

The following paper having been transmitted to Mr. FITZ-ADAM's bookseller on the very day of that gentleman's misfortune, he takes the liberty to offer it to the public just as it came to his hand.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

AS the contagion of politics has been so prevalent of late, that it has even (I won't say, infected, but at least) infused itself into the papers of the impartial Mr. Fitz-Adam, perhaps I may not make him an unacceptable present in the following piece, which will humour the bent of his disorder (for I must consider political writings as a distemper)

per) and at the same time will cool, not increase, any sharpness in his blood.

THO' the author of this little essay is retired from the busier scenes of life, he has not buried himself in such indifference to his country, as to despise, or not attend to, what is passing even in those scenes he has quitted; and having withdrawn from inclination, not from disgust, he preserves the same attachments that he formerly made, tho' contracted even then from esteem, not from interest. He sees with a feeling concern the distresses and distractions of his country; he foresees with anxiety the consequences of both. He laments the discord that divides those men of superior genius, whose union, with all their abilities, were perhaps inadequate to the crisis of our affairs. He does not presume to discuss the grounds of their dissensions, which he wishes themselves to overlook; and he would be one of the last men in England to foment division, where his interest as a Briton, and his private inclinations as a man, bid him hope for coalition. Yet he would not be a man, he might be a stoic, if even these inclinations were equally balanced: his admiration may be suspended, his heart

will be partial. From these sensations he has been naturally led to lament and condemn the late torrent of personalities : he sees with grief the greatest characters treated with the greatest licentiousness : his friendship has been touched at finding one of the most respectable aspersed in the most injurious manner. He holds That person's fame as much superior to reproach, as he thinks himself inferior to That person's defence ; and yet he cannot help giving his testimony to the reputation of a man, with whose friendship he has long been honoured. This ambition, Sir, has occasioned my troubling you with the following portrait, written eight years ago ; designed then as private incense to an honoured name ; and ever since preserved by the author only, and in the fair hands to which it was originally addressed. I will detain you no longer than to say, that if this little piece should be accused of flattery, let it be remembered, that it was written when the subject of it was no minister of state, and that it is published now (and should not else have been published) when he is no minister at all.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant.

H. M.

To the Right Honourable Lady C. F.

MADAM,

I HAVE been attempting to draw a picture of one of your friends, and think I have in some degree succeeded; but as I fear natural partiality may make me flatter myself, I choose to submit to your ladyship's judgment, whose prepossession for the person represented is likely to balance what fondness I may have for my own performances. As I believe you love the person in question, as much as ever other people love themselves, the medium between the faults you shall find, and the just resemblance that I see in the following portrait, is likely to be an exact image.

THE gentleman I am drawing is about * three and forty: a you see all the fondness and delicacy and attention of a lover in him, perhaps your ladyship may take him to be but three and twenty: but I, whose talent is not flattery, and who from his judgment and ex-

P 2

perience

* This was written in the year 1748.

perience and authority, should at first set him down for threescore, upon the strictest enquiry can only allow him to be in the vigour of his age and understanding. His person decides rather on my side, for though he has all the ease and amiableness of youth, yet your ladyship must allow that it has a dignity, which youth might aim at in vain, and for which it will scarce ever be exchanged. If I were like common painters, I should give him a ruddy healthful complexion, and light up his countenance with insipid smiles and unmeaning benignity: but this would not be a faithful portrait: a florid bloom would no more give an idea of him, than his bended brow at first lets one into the vast humanity of his temper; or than an undistinguishing smile would supply the place of his manly curiosity and penetration. To paint him with a chearful open countenance would be a poor return of compliment for the flattery that his approbation bestows, which, by not being promised, doubly satisfies one's self-love. The merit of others is degrading to their friends; the gentleman I mean makes his worth open upon you,

by persuading you that he discovers some in you.

HE has that true characteristic of a great man, that he is superior to others in his private, social, unbended hours. I am far from meaning by this superiority, that he exerts the force of his genius unnecessarily: on the contrary, you only perceive his preheminance in those moments by his being more agreeably good-natured, and idle with more ease, than other people. He seems inquisitive, as if his only business were to learn; and is unreserved, as if he were only to inform; and is equally incapable of mystery in pretending to know what he does not, or in concealing what he does.

IN the house of commons he was for some time an ungraceful and unpopular speaker, the abundance of his matter overflowing his elocution: but the force of his reasoning has prevailed both over his own defects and those of his audience. He speaks with a strength and perspicuity of argument that commands the admiration of an age apt to be more cheaply pleased. But his vanity cannot satisfy itself on the terms it could satisfy others;

nor would he thank any man for his approbation, unless he were conscious of deserving it. But he carries this delicacy still farther, and has been at the idle labour of making himself fame and honours by pursuing a regular and steady plan, when art and eloquence would have carried him to an equal height, and made those fear him, who now only love him—if a party can love a man who they see is only connected with them by principles, not by prejudices.

IN another light one may discover another littleness in his conduct: in the affairs of his office † he is as minute and as full of application as if he were always to remain in the same post; and as exact and knowing as if he always had been in it. He is as attentive to the solicitation and interests of others in his province, as if he were making their fortune, not his own; and to the great detriment of the ministry, has turned one of the best fine cures under the government into one of the most laborious employments, at the same time imagining that the ease with which he executes it, will prevent a dis-

† Secretary at War.

covery of the innovation. He receives all officers who address to him with as little pride as if he were secure of innate nobility; yet this defect of illustrious birth is a blemish, which some of the greatest men have wanted to make them compleatly great: Tully had it; had the happiness and glory of raising himself from a private condition; but boasting of it, might as well have been noble: he degraded himself by usurping that prerogative of nobility, pride of what one can neither cause nor prevent.

I SAY nothing of his integrity, because I know nothing of it, but that it has never been breathed upon even by suspicion: it will be time enough to vindicate it, when it has been impeached. He is as well-bred as those who colour over timidity with gentleness of manners, and as bravely sincere as those who take, or would have brutality taken for honesty; but though his greatest freedom is polite, his greatest condescension is dignified with spirit; and he can no more court his enemies, than relax in kindness to his friends. Yet though he has more spirit than almost any man living, it is never looked upon as

flowing from his passions, by the intimate connection that it always preserves with his understanding. Yet his passions are very strong : he loves play, women more, and one woman more than all. The amiableness of his behaviour to her, is only equalled by hers to him——But as your ladyship would not know a picture of this charming woman, when drawn with all her proper graceful virtues ; and as that engaging ignorance might lead you even into an uncertainty about the portrait of the gentleman, I shall lay down my pencil, and am,

MADAM,

Your LADYSHIP'S

most obedient

humble servant,

VANDYKE.

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